FBIS DAILY REPORT

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UK BUILDING OF NUCLEAR BASE ON FALKLANDS DENIED

PY171919 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2124 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission, denied today the possibility that Great Britain might install a nuclear base on the Malvinas Islands. Castro Madero said Britain has commitments contracted through the Tlatelolco Treaty. He also feels that Great Britain would not violate these commitments so flagrantly. Castro Madero also discarded the possibility that Argentina could become a target for nuclear weapons. Castro Madero talked to the press at Ezeiza International Airport before leaving for Geneva where he will participate in a meeting of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He explained that at the meeting they will discuss the legitimacy of the use of nuclear energy to power British warships during the South Atlantic conflict.

Referring to the problem of nuclear waste, Castro Madero stated that studies are being carried out in Gastre to verify whether cavities left by mined granite selected as the storage space for spent nuclear fuel would be appropriate or not. This study will take all this year and then we will see whether we do have adequate funds to begin work. The vice admiral will also visit the FRG where he will talk with directors of the enterprise in charge of building Atucha II.

REPORTAGE ON PANAMA VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Arrives 16 Feb

PY162130 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2034 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- Panamanian Vice President Jorge Ullueca arrived at the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport on board the Argentine presidential plane this afternoon. The presidential plane brought Ullueca over from Ezeiza International Airport, where he had arrived a few minutes before for an official visit to Argentina. Ullueca, who arrived at the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport at 1717 [2017 GMT], was met by Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and by officials of the Argentine Foreign Ministry and of the Panamanian Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Interview on Arrival

PY170155 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca is currently visiting Argentina. Here is a report from the airport:

[Begin recording] [Announcer; in progress] Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca was met by Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari. The Panamanian vice president's large entourage is headed by Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado and it is made up of Argentine Ambassador to Panama Silvio Hector Neumann, among others.

[Question] Please sir, what is the purpose of your visit to Argentina?

[Answer] My visit is in response to an invitation made to me by the Argentine nation some time ago, which I felt I could not refuse.

The purpose of my visit is to voice Panama's solidarity with Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Malvinas and to seek formulas to strengthen Latin America's ability to negotiate. I believe that we will also discuss the SELA's coordinating meeting to be held in Cartagena on the last week of this month and the Group of 77 meeting to be held in Buenos Aires on the last week of March. We will also discuss current Latin American problems. However, the main purpose of our visit is to convey our affection, solidarity and unrestricted support to Argentina. We are certain that Argentina has a great future in store and that it is one of the main pillars of the Latin American community. [end recording]

## Foreign Minister's Remarks

PY170043 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2155 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (NA) -- Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari stated this afternoon that he did not reject the fact that the government might expropriate land that is owned by British interests in Argentina if England adopts a similar measure regarding Argentine property on the Malvinas Islands. "No type of action is to be rejected," he maintained, to add that this possibility "will be studied by the Argentine authorities."

He also indicated that Argentina expresses its solidarity with Brazil, which, according to press reports, presumably had two of its oceanographic vessels intercepted by a British plane in waters of the South Atlantic. "We cannot but express our solidarity," he emphasized, "in the face of another impudent action by Great Britain in these waters, which, of course, do not belong to it."

The foreign minister made these remarks at the Jorge Newbery Airport, where he met Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca, who, in the company of other high-ranking officials of that country, began today a 5-day visit to Argentina. He termed Illueca's visit as one "of great importance" and he stated that "it is based on something more than mere protocol. "It is based," he said, "on the fact that a true friend -- among whom we include Panamanian Foreign Minister Amado -- is now visiting us."

He then recalled the "strong and lucid" policy that was carried out by Illueca in Argentina's favor during the armed conflict with Great Britain at the time that he was at the head of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry. "This is something we cannot forget and therefore his visit must be one of rejoicing for all Argentines," he added.

Referring to the topics that will be discussed in the meetings that he will have with the representatives of the Central American country, Aguirre Lanari maintained that "The agenda is open and we will review hemispheric matters and bilateral interests."

He then indicated that it was natural that Argentina should express its solidarity with Brazil over the incident in which two vessels that were flying the flag of that country were intercepted in southern waters by a British airplane. "It is only natural," he said, "we cannot but express our solidarity in the face of another impudent British action in these waters, which, of course, do not belong to it."

When he was asked about the report from London, which indicates that England might expropriate land in the Malvinas that belongs to Argentine interests, and that if it was confirmed would Argentina adopt similar measures with British interests located on continental territory, the foreign minister indicated that "no type of action must be rejected."

"Logically, the matter will be studied by the Argentine authorities," he added.

Answering other questions, he repeated that "The government is willing to and it is making every effort to seek an honorable and decorous solution that will take into account our legitimate rights" within the framework of the papal mediation of the Beagle Channel conflict. Moreover, he said that "a decision will not be adopted without consultation and if the adequate channels are achieved, which we hope will occur, the government, due to its structure, will not adopt any type of measure on its own. It will consult with the representative institutions of the people."

Among other topics he confirmed that President Reynaldo Bignone will head the Argentine delegation to the meeting of the nonaligned countries, which will take place in March in New Delhi. He also indicated that "It is my belief that there is no obstacle which will hinder this trip."

When he was asked about the favorable U.S. attitude toward bilateral negotiations over the sovereignty of the Malvinas, the foreign minister indicated that "It is a positive event that demonstrates that the Argentine cause finds support from different factions throughout the world. "The change of attitude by the United States regarding the Malvinas demonstrates a promising advance that, naturally, satisfies us," he stressed.

## Illueca on Malvinas Policy

PY172047 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0019 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- Panama's support for Argentina's position on the Malvinas issue is clear, logical, firm and unyielding, Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca said this afternoon. He also voiced his support for the settlement of the issue through negotiations between the UK and Argentine Governments and referred to the Brisith attitude as a colonialist cancer. Illueca also remarked that Argentina's sovereign rights over the South Atlantic archipelago represent a factor of unity for all the countries of the continent which, he noted, must settle their differences and overcome any situation that may separate them in order to unite and successfully cope with their problems.

Talking to reporters at the metropolitan airport, after a brief stopover at Ezeiza Airport, Illueca stressed that the British usurpation, unacceptable and anachronistic as it is, goes against the spirit of the times and is like a colonialist cancer that must be eradicated. "We believe," he went on, "that the Panamanian position will be even more radical than it was before, because we have carefully studied the Malvinas issue and the Argentine position and we have realized that justice and reason are on Argentina's side. This issue involves Latin American prestige."

Asked whether the U.S. Government had pressured Panama during the South Atlantic conflict to make it change its stance, Illueca gave assurances that Washington respected Panama's we well as Argentina's nonaligned position. The conflict that started on 2 April 1982 provoked a strong reaction all over Latin America. This reaction involved solidarity with Argentina and condemnation of the EEC and U.S. actions which, on the one hand, sought to impose conditions on Argentina and, on the other, disregarded continental agreements which involved the entire inter-American security system, he said.

"I would not say the United States pressured Panama. I believe that the United States is exerting continuous pressure on all Latin American countries to prevent a regional accord from being achieved, an accord which is so necessary for developing a collective personality that would enable us to adopt a common position as interlocutors of the United States," Illueca added.

Regarding the British refusal to negotiate with Argentina, Illueca said that it is an attitude that cannot last for too long. It is like the thief who wants to keep what he stole; but this is not possible because the entire community is watching and what has been stolen or seized will have to be returned, he remarked. Illueca also noted that although Great Britain will oppose negotiations, their situation is untenable. They cannot stay on the Malvinas and they will have to negotiate. I believe diplomatic negotiations are the most suitable solution, but we should not forget that all colonial wars and wars for independence included both negotiations and dramatic episodes such as that of April, he remarked.

Illueca, who will pay tribute to the Malvinas war dead tomorrow, said that no problem can be solved until it is perceived as a problem and I believe that Argentina did what it had to do and that this is the time to negotiate. We are for the peaceful settlement of controversies.

In conclusion, Illueca said that his country's position is clear, logical, firm and unyielding and that it could not have been otherwise, because Argentina and all Latin American countries have also supported Panama when it faced its own difficulties. Refusing to support Argentina would amount to denying our very existence, he said.

Further Details, Criticism

PY172054 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1448 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA) -- It has been reported that Argentina will propose that Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca be named chairman of the 38th UN General Assembly to be held in New York in September. Vice President Illueca this morning met with Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari. Later, he paid tribute to General San Martin at San Martin Plaza and attended a similar ceremony at the Malvinas Plaza in this capital.

Speaking in front of the monument of Manuel Ugarte [Argentine writer and diplomat 1878-1951] at the Recoleta Cemetery, Illueca praised "the glorious figure of Manuel Ugarte" who excelled in his unswevring anticolonialist stand." Illueca noted that what Ugarte said in 1912 "is still fully in force today in the face of ferocious colonialist aggression perpetrated by Great Britain backed by the United States and its NATO allies, in its anachronistic attempt at perpetuating its illegal dominion over the Malvinas Archipelago."

Illueca quoted a remark made by Ugarte, who in 1912 charged that the United States "is not aware of how its force is being used in neighboring areas, it is not aware that it is provoking extremely bitter resentment in the rest of the new world."

BOLIVIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY141414 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0144 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb (DYN) -- Bolivian Defense Minister Jorge Ortiz Mercado today denied reports that there were differences between the Argentine and Bolivian governments. He also said that the relations between the two nations are "very good." Ortiz Mercado, who today arrived in Buenos Aires for an official visit, answered a question in this regard by saying that "there are no problems between our two governments. I have come to discuss various economic subjects, just as I did on several prior occasions."

He disclosed plans to meet with Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe in order to talk about "certain aspects related to the renegotiation of Argentina's foreign debt stemming from the purchases of Bolivian gas and other issues connected with bilateral trade," although he refused to specify the issues in question.

The Bolivian defense minister also ruled out the possibility that former members of Bolivian military governments currently in asylum in Argentina -- such as former President Luis Garcia Meza and former Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez -- could influence the Argentine Government against Bolivia.

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS DEBT PROBE EXTENDED

PY170241 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] Federal Judge Martin Anzoategui yesterday authorized the commission of experts investigating the "excessive" foreign debt that Argentina has acquired since the military junta took over the government in 1976 to have access to "as much information as they deem necessary" from both public and private institutions. The commission was to originally only conduct its investigation from March of 1976 to March of 1981 but the judge has now extended the investigation to include the time period up to December 31 of 1982.

The foreign debt of the country, according to official estimates was said to be 39 billion (thousand million) dollars as of June 30, 1981. Later estimates by Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe placed the total debt at around the 43 billion-dollar mark, but private sources claim the total is over 45 billion dollars. The total foreign debt in 1976 was 10 billion dollars.

Anzoategui began the investigation into the foreign debt after he found discrepancies in Central Bank records and public reports of how the funds were spent. The judge has asked the body of experts for a detailed monthly analysis on incoming foreign loans and how they were dispersed as well as one on the financial movements of the country's reserves during this time period.

AIR FORCE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON FOREIGN DEBT FIGURE

PY171221 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Communique issued by Argentine Air Force on 16 February 1983]

[Text] The press office of the Argentine Air Force hereby reports that, in view of Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Augusto Hughes' permanent concern over Argentina's foreign debt and prior to recent statements made on the matter, working teams of the Air Force General Secretariat determined that Argentina's foreign debt on 31 December 1982 was about $38 billion, rather than $43 billion.

NICOLAIDES ON COUP POSSIBILITY, POLITICAL CONCERNS

PY172101 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides has said that cohesion among three armed forces must be regarded as a guarantee for the nation. Nicolaides also explained that he and President Reynaldo Bignone made a balance of the first 7 months of military rule under the latter, and that the result was quite positive. Nicolaides made an inspection visit to Mendoza military units and met high ranking officers with whom he discussed military matters.

Asked whether he would dismiss reports that a military coup may be staged, he answered: I cannot make such a categorical statement because I am not aware of the facts. Just like you do, I also receive information. Thus far I have already heard about 32 coups since I took over.

He was then asked about the interior minister's statement that the executive branch has not considered the possibility of taking legal action against political leaders who criticized harshly some Armed Forces sectors. Nicolaides answered that he would not mention any names, but what I will say, he added, and this is included in what we have published, is that I see a very clear difference between criticism, insult and disrespect.

Asked about the document that the officers' club submitted to the military junta, Nicolaides said that it was under study in order to clarify several legal points.

Concerning the elections Nicolaides said that the attainment of that goal will depend on all representative sectors, which bear a major responsibility in the struggle for our objectives.

BIGNONE, UCR LEADER MEET, DISCUSS ELECTIONS DATE

PY180209 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0207 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA) -- Upon beginning a new stage of the political dialogue with the government tonight, the Radical Civic Union [UCR] requested "elections as soon as possible." At the same time, the UCR expressed its support for the electoral system established by the Saenz Pena law. Radical leader Carlos Contin made this statement at the end of a prolonged meeting that the UCR leaders held with President Reynaldo Bignone and with Interior Minister Llamil Reston. The meeting reportedly lasted a little more than 3 hours.

The UCR leader pointed out that the deadline for the electoral timetable and the electoral law were "thoroughly" discussed during the meeting. Contin stated that his party wants "elections as soon as possible. The UCR wants this not because it is pressed for it, but because it will be a way for the Armed Forces to show the country that it is interested in democracy." Contin confirmed that President Bignone will announce the date of the election and other details concerning the electoral timetable on Monday, 28 February. The UCR leader also told newsmen that the government is planning to call the elections in October but declined to state whether he was informed of the actual date.

JUSTICIALIST PARTY TO PARTICIPATE IN DIALOGUE

PY172058 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1621 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (TELAM ) -- The Justicialist National Movement will participate in the political dialogue called for Next Tuesday by the national government, Justicialist First Vice President Deolindo Felipe Bittel reported today. The decision was made at a meeting of the Justicialist Superior Council held in the party's headquarters in this capital at 2100 Venezuela Street. It was noted that at their meeting with President Bignone the Justicialist leaders will request that the institutional acts affecting former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and other leaders be repealed, and that they will state their position on the electoral law, the Beagle, the Malvinas and the missing people.

PERONIST-AZOPARDO GROUP ESTABLISHED IN MEETING

PY151347 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1244 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 12 F-b (TELAM) — The 62 organizations Peronist-Azopardo group was established during a plenum meeting that was called by the Mar del Plata unions. The meeting was held here at the municipal workers union headquarters without the presence of the press. A communique that was issued after the meeting, signed by Raul Cesar Maglione and Juan Rogic, reports the establishment of the group.

MRS PERON ACQUITTED FROM PRISON SENTENCE

PY111309 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2256 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (NA) -- Today, former President Maria Estela Martinez Peron was acquitted by a court of appeals from a prison sentence of 7 years and 11 months passed by former Federal Judge Pedro Narvaiz. The First Federal Criminal Court of Appeals revoked the sentence through a two-to-one decision, noting that the former president "did not exceed her functions when she returned to the Justicialist Party premises on 711 Moreno Street, which had been taken over by the state." Raul Rodriguez Araya and Ramon Montoya voted in favor of the decision, while Fernando Manparas voted against it.

NEW CGTRA ISSUES LIST OF DEMANDS TO GOVERNMENT

PY142343 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (NA) -- The General Labor Confederation of the Republic of Argentina CGTRA in its first document demanded that the government "immediately" modify the "current monetary policy" and adopt "measures which will allow the reactivation of the productive apparatus."

The brand new organization pointed out that these decisions should "be discussed with the CGTRA and the business organizations" because "any measure which does not comply with this requirement will be flatly rejected."

"Any decision which might compromise the nation's assets or condition its future should be previously discussed" with those organizations.

In the "action plan" included in the document, entitled "Permanent Mobilization for the Defense of the Nation and its Peoples," issued at the end of the "plennary of the labor union unity," the CGTRA proposed measures aimed at solving the "urgent problems of the current situation" and "the basic issues."

Regarding the labor union the CGTRA demanded the "effective recovery of the real salary for the active and retired workers" through government-approved salaries, the modification of the salary scale, the alignment of the basic minimum salary with the cost of living and the holding of meetings between managers and employees.

The CGTRA also requested the establishment of a "control and a maximum" for prices of staples and medicines, the drawing up of a schedule with fixed dates for the handing over of all intervened labor unions and social organizations, as well as the abolishment of "all repressive laws."

## CENTRAL BANK GRANTS $70 MILLION TO SOME SECTORS

PY160258 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Feb 83 p 13

[Text] Rolando Morales, under secretary for monetary, banking and credit policy, reported yesterday that the Exchange Policy Commission has granted thus far $70 million through the Central Bank to various sectors and persons who have requested and have met the conditons for the money grants. Morales announced that a detailed account of the distribution of the money will be submitted to new Finance Minister Flavio Machicado together with a report on the amount of money available for this prupose which totals $101 million.

Morales stated that the exchange policy commission has approved allocating $1.6 million to the transportation sector. This amount will be earmarked to import tires and parts for public transportation vehicles "so that the transportation sector can continue to render its services normally." Morales stated that in view of the fact that car imports are banned, the government has agreed to grant this amount to the transportation sector so that it can overcome the basic problems it is experiencing because of the lack of tires and parts.

Morales stated that the demand for currency from the exchange houses "is heavy," but he said that the government believes that priority should be given to productive sectors and to sectors that use a lot of manpower, such as the transportation sector.

## PROTEST TO OAS OF CHILEAN RAILROAD RATES ISSUED

PY171552 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Bolivia has submitted a strong protest against Chilean for the arbitrary increase in the freight rates of the railroad service Bolivia uses to carry its trade. A cable, datelined in Santiago, Chile, reports that the Bolivian protest, which was submitted to the OAS Political Council, has caused unusually strong reactions in Chile: The Chilean press reports that the Foreign Ministry is studying the possibility of answering the Bolivian protest that was raised within the OAS. Bolivia is protesting against an alleged arbitrary increase in the freight rate of the international railroad uniting the two countries.

The cable adds that private companies are in charge of exploiting the railroads uniting Arica and Antofagasta with La Paz. It also says that the Bolivian ambassador to the OAS, Fernando Salazar, has submitted a protest note to the OAS Political Council which is headed by Argentine Ambassador Raul Quijano. The cable further says that Chilean Foreign Ministry sources have noted that Bolivia's attitude in this regard is nothing new and that an answer is under study.

## POLICE SAY DRUG TRAFFICKERS CONTRACT MERCENARIES

PY151412 Paris AFP in Spanish 1542 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Major Hernan Cortes, director of the police specialized in repressing the manufacturing and trafficking of cocaine, has stated in Cochabamba, in central Bolivia, that drug traffickers are contracting mercenaries and are encouraging the weapons and explosives trade in order to protect themselves. The police director revealed that three arms stores have been opened in Shinahota, a town located some 80 km north of Cochabamba, and already known almost worldwide as the cocaine capital. High quality firearms are being sold there at extremely high prices. Meanwhile, Major Cortes stated, the police only have obsolete shotguns, while makes any effective action against the drug traffickers more difficult.

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO TO VISIT MEXICO 27-28 APRIL

PY172315 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The Presidential Press and Information Secretariat today reported that President Joao Figueiredo will make an official visit to Mexico on 27-28 April at the invitation of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid.

NAVY SPOKESMAN PLAYS DOWN INTERCEPTION OF SHIPS

PY172231 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 17 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST) -- A British Harrier jump jet, hovering and beaming a powerful spotlight, intercepted a Brazilian research ship in the Falkland Islands exclusion zone, reporters aboard the ship said Wednesday. The jet's crew asked the captain of the Professor Besnad to identify himself and hours later a British frigate confronted the scientific vessel again and repeated the procedure. The incident occurred Monday night, 34 miles off the Falkland Islands, over which Britain and Argentina fought last April. The Brazilian ship was returning home from an Antarctic expedition.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment, but a Navy Ministry spokesman played down the interception as routine naval procedure. "The plane just wanted to identify the ship. Since the Falklands war, the British have considered the 200-mile zone an area of exclusion," said Navy spokesman Captain Erve Noguerira.

Reports from the Professor Besnard said scientists and crew abroad the ship were surprised when the British jet appeared. They said the Harrier hovered close to the bow and beamed a powerful spotlight on the ship to check its name and flag. Once the Brazilian captain identified himself, the Harrier's pilot wished him a pleasant voyage and disappeared into the night, they said. The accounts said a British frigate appeared a few hours later at daybreak and asked Captain Adilson Gama to identify his ship again.

The Professor Besnard was returning from a 60-day expedition to the Antarctic.

Navy spokesman Nogueira said that the other research ship on Brazil's first ever Antarctic expedition, the Barao de Teffe, was also intercepted by a British Hercules C-130 on its way south. Two Phantom jets and a Wessex helicopter also appeared on the scene later to identify the ship sailing 40 miles off the Falklands, press reports said. "They have to come close to ask 'Who are you?' 'Where do you come from?' and 'Where are you going?'," said the navy spokesman. "Then they wish you a pleasant trip," he added.

EMBRAER SELLS 25 XINGU TRAINING PLANES TO LIBYA

PY171915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Sao Paulo, 17 Feb (AFP) -- Aeronautics sources from Sao Paulo reported today that Libya purchased 25 Xingu training and transport planes for a total of $105 million. The sources added that the operation was closed after lengthy negotiations between Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and a Libyan delegation which arrived in Brazil toward the end of December 1982. The Xingu is a twin-turboprop intended for training military pilots. Forty-one of these planes have already been delivered to the French Air Force and Navy.

INDUSTRY MINISTER SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO

PY180040 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Brazilian Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna today held a 2-hour meeting with Moroccan Industry Minister Azzedine Guessous to discuss ways to intensify trade between the two countries. The meeting concluded with the signing of an agreement whereby Brazil will give Morocco preferential treatment in the commercial area, Camilo Penna said.

Penna justified the agreement on the fact that Morocco is not a signatory of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, GATT. He added that the agreement will not be implemented until after it has been approved by the National Congress. Penna added that the agreement will give preference to Brazilian imports of Moroccan calcium phosphate and noted that although lacking oil, Morocco has a great potential for contracting services and that it is planning to invest $20 billion in the next 6 years.

JANUARY EXPORT FIGURES BELOW EXPECTED LEVEL

PY161711 Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Feb 83 p 16

[Excerpts] The first month of 1983 ended without noticeable changes in the international market compared to the second half of 1982, when several countries practically closed their borders, prices slumped drastically and high interest rates brought about a general trade recession. In view of this situation, foreign trade analysts fear that Brazilian exports may not reach $23 billion this year, a goal that was set by both the government and businessmen in order to obtain a $6-billion surplus in the balance of trade.

To reach the $23-billion level, Brazilian exports must grow by at least 10 percent this year. Thus, the monthly average must be approximately $1.9 billion. However, the preliminary estimate of the Brazilian exporters association (AEB) and the foreign trade department (CACEX) reveals a disappointing showing for January, when sales did not reach $1.7 billion. This month, which has 5 working days less, will surely show a lower figure.

Therefore, if sales during the first 2 months range from $3.2 to $3.3 billion, the monthly average sales for the rest of the year must be larger than $2 billion. This will be hard to accomplish, above all taking into account that major purchasers of Brazilian goods such as Argentina, Chile, Nigeria and Poland, instead of improving their purchasing capacity, are facing difficulties in their balance of payments.

BRIEFS

PHILCO WORKERS DISMISSED -- The Sao Paulo metalworkers union reported yesterday that the Philco radio and television company had dismissed 1200 of its 4000 workers. The union staged a demonstration outside the company's main gate to protest the dismissals. The company's management has time and again declined to give reasons for these dismissals. [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 83 p 19 PY]

SENATE PRESIDENT ELECTED -- In simultaneous sessions held today in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies, Senator Nilo Coelho was elected president of the Federal Senate, and Deputy Flavio Marcilio was elected president of the Chamber of Deputies. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Feb 83 PY]

SPANISH BANKS WILLING TO REFINANCE CHILEAN DEBT

PY172338 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] After meeting with Finance Minister Carlos Caceres, (Francisco Fernandez Ordonez), president of the Banco del Exterior de Espana, stated that the Spanish banks are willing to help Chile by refinancing Chile's debt. Spanish Ambassador to Chile Salvador Bermudez de Castro also participated in the meeting.

(Fernandez Ordonez) stated that Chile's debt to Spain is estimated at approximately $200 million. (Fernandez Ordonez) said that the purpose of his visit to Chile is to participate in the general meeting to be held by branch of the Banco del Exterior de Espana in Santiago, adding that he has already met with Central Bank President Hernan Felipe Errazuriz and with Banks' Superintendent (Boris Blanco).

POLICE IDENTIFY EXTREMISTS IN VINA DEL MAR CASE

PY171550 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The police have identified extremists involved in the incident in Renaca. They had entered the country in a clandestine manner and planned to make numerous attacks in the 5th region. The extremist who was killed in the clash was identified as (Danilo Wilfredo Quesada Cajetillo), while the extremist who was wounded was identified as (Pedro Burgos Ibanez). (Danilo Wilfredo Quesada Cajetillo), 26 years old, had been indicted by the Antofagasta military court on charges of violating the gun control law. Since he was not allowed to enter the country, he entered Chile after 1980 in a clandestine manner and through a so-called "return plan."

In the clash, (Quesada) was killed and (Burgos) was wounded. Police discovered 40 kg of explosives in the car the extremists were travelling in. These explosives were to be used in numerous attacks to take place in Vina del Mar.

(Burgos Ibanez), 32 years old, was [as heard] a member of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR. He was a member of the MIR military organization and was in charge of the labor union branch of the No 3 (Macurdo) paramilitary group.

COURT BANISHES COMMUNISTS TO COUNTRY TOWNS

PY161357 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Feb 83 p C2

[Excerpt] It was learned yesterday from court sources that Alfredo Iriarte Iriarte, Hector Malatrassi Aguiler and Luis Portillo Peralta, members of the proscribed Communist Party, will be banished on Monday to different parts of the country.

These three persons have been sentenced by the Supreme Court to 2-year banishments for violating decree-law No 77 on illegal associations.

They were detained on 27 November 1981 and notified of the Supreme Court sentence on 15 January 1983. Iriarte will be banished to Chanaral; Malatrassi to Taltal, and Portilla to Tocopilla.

MIR MEMBERS RECEIVE 4-YEAR EXPULSION SENTENCES

PY161240 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Feb 83 p c 5

[Excerpts] Fernando Hernan Alba Sanchez, Pedro Fernandez Lemback, Juana Rosa Aguilera Jaramillo and Rita Pena Cardenas, members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, were notified yesterday of the sentence to 4 years of banishment (expulsion from the country) imposed on them by the Santiago Court of Appeals.

These persons were detained following the raid on a house located at 4101 Los Limoneros Street, in the neighborhood of Nunoa, where a mimeograph machine was found with which EL REBELDE and EL PROLETARIO were allegedly printed. According to the investigators, broadcasting equipment for a clandestine radio was found in the house where Fernando Alba and Juana Aguilera used to live.

UNION LEADER PODLECH ALLOWED TO RETURN

PY171815 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Relay from Osorno by (Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] [Begin relay] President Pinochet confirmed today at noon that exiled leader Carlos Podlech will return to the country. Throughout the morning there were rumors about this, but the news was only confirmed today at noon by a presidential spokesman who stated that the president had authorized Podlech to return to Chile.

It should be recalled that Podlech was expelled from the country in the first week of December 1982 when he held a meeting of agricultural producers in front of the Temuco Agricultural Development Association building without the authorization of the 9th region military authorities.

After a 2-day arrest, Podlech was expelled from the country. He first lived in Rio de Janeiro for a short time and later in Bariloche. At present, he is in Neuquen [Argentina].

We repeat that Carlos Podlech has been authorized to return to Chile. [end relay]

There have been positive reactions among union leaders to the government decision to authorize Carlos Podlech, president of the Wheat Growers Association, to return to Chile.

Jorge (Fontaine), president of the Production and Trade Confederation, noted: [Begin (Fontaine) recording] This is the best news I have heard in a long time. I believe it is very important that union leader Carlos Podlech has been allowed to return to his country. I am very happy for him, and I am happy that the president has made this decision. [end recording]

Domingo Durand, president of the Agricultural Producers Confederation, said that it was good news. [Begin Durand recording] in the name of all Chilean farmers, I thank the president for allowing our leader to return to Chile. [end recording]

REGIME TO PRESENT LATIN AMERICA RECOVERY PLAN

PA162358 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado will ask ECLA and SELA to define an action program that will allow Latin America to face the serious problems brought on by the international economic crisis. In a letter that will simultaneously be delivered at noon today to the secretaries of ECLA in Santiago, Chile and SELA in Caracas, Venezuela, the Ecuadorean plan is explained and a request is made for a Latin American response to the world economic crisis.

It was officially announced that the Ecuadorean president appointed (Luis Narvaez), under secretary for economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, to deliver the document in Santiago, Chile and (Eduardo Ortega Gomez), former natural resources and energy minister, to do the same in Caracas, Venezuela.

At the same time, the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry will send the same document to the presidents of all the Latin American countries, including Cuba, to inform them of the plan and ask them to analyze it since this plan is intended as a means to find a new way, in the economic area, that would allow these countries to face the crisis that has placed them in a serious situation due to the high foreign debt they are facing, which adds up to $300 billion. All of these countries are facing an uncontrollable inflationary increase. Official sources added that the Ecuadorean plan also suggests the need for a revision to the present Latin American economic model that would allow the countries of the area to free themselves from dependency on developed countries, especially the United States.

PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT, MINISTER STOP OVER

PA172324 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2152 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Guayaquil, 16 Feb (EFE) -- Jorge Illueca and Juan Jose Amado III. vice president and foreign minister of Panama respectively, met today with Ecuadorean Minister Luis Valencia during a short stopover on their way to Argentina. EFE has learned that the high-ranking Panamanian and Ecuadorean officials discussed general and bilateral affairs.

Vice President Illueca and Foreign Minister Amado continued to Buenos Aires, where Illueca will be honored tomorrow for his defensive of Argentina in the UN Security Council during the Malvinas Islands conflict. Panama University Rector Ceferino Sanchez is also a member of the Panamanian delegation.

FRG NUCLEAR OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS ENERGY ISSUES

PA170429 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The president of the FRG Nuclear Institute, Dr (Volker Hartmann), arrived here today for a series of working sessions with OLADE Executive Secretary [name indistinct]. An OLADE report noted that during his visit there will be several working sessions with the director of the Ecuadorean Energy Institute and their colleagues from Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

The participants will examine the European experience in applying models to estimate energy supply and demand and their technological and financial implications, and will discuss the bases on which such technology could be transferred to Latin America.

PRIME MINISTER TO ATTEND NONALIGNED MEETING

PY161652 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb will attend the New Delhi meeting of nonaligned countries to be held between 1 and 11 March. He will represent President Fernando Belaunde whose duties prevent him from attending the New Delhi meeting.

PRIME MINISTER SETS MAIN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES

PY172114 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] During his address to Congress yesterday, Peruvian Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb pointed out the need to finish placing landmarks in the northern border, near the Condor Mountain Range zone; to assert Peru's presence in new geographical areas, especially in the Pacific; and to uphold an authentic, nonaligned position in compliance with the movement's principles. Further on the minister pointed out the need for a complete reestablishment of public order, the implementation of a program to reorganize the country's economy and a campaign to do away with corruption in the public sector. He stated that these objectives will do away with the three main problems which the nation is currently enduring: the terrorist offensive, the current economic situation and the rising crime rate.

Fernando Schwalb pointed out that the constitutional government's firm determination to continue struggling against the terrorist offensive is aimed at strengthening, in the shortest term possible, the principle of authority and to guarantee public order, the respect for the institutions, human rights and the citizens' liberties. The minister charged that extremism -- which he termed a new type of delinquency -- has unleased a campaign of destruction and death that has already caused many victims and much damage to public and private property, taking advantage of the depressed areas where people have a very low standard of living. Schwalb pointed out that terrorism unleashes its cruel actions as much against the authorities as it does against the peasants under very poor conditions. The terrorists rape the peasant women, kidnap their children, steal their few belongings and cattle. Therefore, it cannot be stated that the terrorists' actions are aimed at benefiting or protecting the most needy sectors. In fully restoring the principle of authority the government -- as is its intention -- will make sure that the full weight of the law punishes those responsible, both the instigators and the perpetrators, for the tragic events which have been taking place in the areas declared in a state of emergency due to the violence unleashed by a group which has taken the gloomy path of crime.

Schwalb on Economy

PY172121 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 16 Feb (AFP) -- Peruvian Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb issued a warning here today on the danger of a profound generalized economic crisis if a strict discipline in fiscal expenditures is not adopted and if all sectors do not cooperate to overcome the situation. The government understands that it is difficult to ask for new sacrifices from a country which is encountering serious difficulties, but if these measures are not adopted now, the consequence will be a situation of economic chaos, with runaway inflation, generalized unemployment and the drainage of national reserves, he states. Among the measures to be adopted, he mentioned increases in the prices of nine different public services and the maintenance of the system of small and continuous devaluations. He admitted, however, that inflation will continue at a significant rate during the next few months. Schwalb announced the prolulgation of a law on employment, measures to promote industrial and agricultural activity, the elimination of superflous fiscal expenditures, a reorganization of the state enterprises sector, and measures to protect the consumer.

QUEEN ELIZABETH ARRIVES, WELCOMED BY PRESIDENT

PA172256 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2235 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Acapulco, Mexico, 17 Feb (EFE) -- Queen Elizabeth II arrived at this Mexican beach resort today for an official 6-day visit. She was welcomed at the airport by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and his wife. The queen and her entourage, including her husband Phillip, the duke of Edinburgh; and Francis Pym, secretary of foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived by air from the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean. Hundreds of people in Acapulco gave the British queen a warm welcome. This is the second time she has visited Mexico. Her first visit was in 1975.

Pym and his Mexican colleague Bernardo Sepulveda discussed, among other topics, the situation in Central Ameirca, the Malvinas issue, and oil, according to a Mexican source.

INDUSTRY'S FOREIGN DEBT FACES SERIOUS OBSTACLES

FL162002 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1727 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Confederation of Industrial Chambers (Concamin) has stated that the country's private sector is facing serious obstacles in renegotiating its foreign debt which amounts to $25 billion. The organization, which is made up of approximately 150,000 industrialists, demanded the government's support in order to implement mechanisms needed to permit the survival of the country's industry. Concamin President Alfonso Pandal Graff noted that the main problem of the private industry is the renegotiation of its debt, the lack of foreign exchange to pay suppliers and interest, and the need to extend payment terms with foreign banks. In addition, Pandal Graff said that he opposes a 30-percent wage hike demanded by workers. He described the moment to ask for this increase as inopportune because the industry is trying to survive.

PARTIES REJECT ANY KIND OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AID

FL171343 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0144 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM), the United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), the Popular Socialst Party (PPS) and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) today rejected any kind of aid from the U.S. Government.

PRI Senator Hector Vazquez Paredes noted that the type of aid offered by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday must be analyzed. Vazquez Paredes, who represents Tlaxcala (in the country's central region), said that it is the Mexicans who must improve the economy and added that he did not know how the United States could help our country. He said that in the event that Mexico accepts this aid, it would have to establish the rules of the game.

PPS Deputy Francisco Ortiz Mendoza asked the United States not to worry about the Mexican economy anymore and to let our government overcome the present economic slump. PSUM spokesman Jaime Trejo rejected any kind of imperialist intervention in our country. Meanwhile, PDM Press Secretary Jesus Zamora Flores warned that U.S. interest in Mexico is due to its role as an opening to Central Ameirca. He stressed that Mexico plays a key and strategic role in Central Ameirca and noted that the United States is reportedly offering economic aid to our country in exchange for support for its warmongering policy.

Manuel Aguilar Mora of the PRT expressed opposition to any aid from the United States because that nation would collect for the aid given to Mexico in various ways.

TRADE MINISTER, GDR COUNTERPART REACH AGREEMENTS

FL171258 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0040 17 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- It was reported here today that Mexico and the GDR will study barter agreements and the establishment of mechanisms that permit the promotion of trade between the two countries. It was also reported that GDR Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Edward Schwierz held a meeting with Trade and Industrial Development Secretary Hector Hernandez Cervantes in which they stressed the willingness of their respective governments to increase the flow of trade, which dropped in 1982 due to economic difficulties being faced by the two nations.

They agreed on the purchase of large quantities of honey and Mexican coffee for the GDR market. This purhcase will go into effect immediately. Hernandez Cervantes and Schwierz agreed to establish a technical working group that will be in charge of the mechanisms to permit an increase in trade between the two countries.

EXPORTS EXPECTED TO EARN $17 BILLION THIS YEAR

FL170105 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Rejecting that the price of crude is under pressure, the secretary of energy, mines and semistate industry announced that Mexico stands to earn $17 billion in exports this year. Regarding the announcement by Great Britain that it will reduce the price of its oil exports, Francisco Labastida Ochoa said that was a unilateral decision which in no way should be considered as pressure to reduce the price because Mexico is carefully watching conditions in the world market.

FINNISH DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR COSTA RICA

FL171229 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2345 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- A delegation of Finnish legislators headed by Pursiainen Terho left for Costa Rica today following a 2-day stay in his capital. The delegation members reported they had held talks with Senate Leader Miguel Gonzalez Avelar on Mexican cultural and political matters and on the climate of violence prevailing in Central America.

They noted that the meetings were fruitful because their government is very interested in the problems existing in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO GDR APPOINTED -- Mexico City, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid today appointed Rogelio Martinez Aguilar as Mexico's ambassador to the GDR, the Foreign Secretariat announced. He will replace Ambassador Ricardo Guerra Pesada. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Feb 83 FL]

VICE PRESIDENT, MINISTERS LEAVE FOR ARGENTINA

PA161630 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1524 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Panama, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca left this morning for Buenos Aires on an official 5-day visit during which he will meet with President Reynaldo Bignone and Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari. Illueca is accompanied by Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado and Commerce and Industries Minister Mario de Diego. The vice president received a special invitation from the Buenos Aires government in appreciation for Panama's support of Argentina's cause during the latest conflict with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands. When the Anglo-Argentine conflict broke out between April and June Illueca was foreign minister and he defended Argentina's cause in international forums. Illueca will be decorated by the Argentine Government. He will place a wreath at the Jose San Martin Monument. Later he will go to Cordova Province where he will dedicate the Republic of Panama Plaza.

DAILY DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF IRANIAN'S KIDNAPPING

PA180209 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The total silence of the Panamanian authorities concerning the kidnapping of Kaveh Yazdani is quite different than the attention and concern shown by the Costa Rican officials and reporters. Although the kidnapping occurred in Costa Rica, the kidnappers -- presumably a Salvadoran guerrilla group -- brought their victim to Panama under still shady circumstances, transferring him from place to place until finally ending up at Punta Chame, where the victim was able to escape his captors during a moment of carelessness on their part.

The presence of a Salvadoran guerrilla command operating with complete impunity in our country, the probable murder of another victim who temporarily shared captivity with Yazmani, and the questions posed to the Panamanian authorities by the Costa Rican officials demand a thorough investigation. Panama cannot become the comfortable refuge of criminals, terrorists and guerrillas, and it is up to the authorities to act effectively and firmly to indicate so, while always observing the spirit of the law. It is the duty of the attorney general's office to begin the investigation. If it already has, it should report it so that we may at least have the satisfaction of knowing that some official is doing his duty.

PEOPLE'S PARTY CONDEMNS 'KINDLE LIBERTY'

PA172022 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 83 p 6C

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Spokesmen of the People's Party (PC) [communist party] have reiterated their opposition to the "Kindle Liberty 83" joint military maneuvers that are being held in the canal area. They said that the maneuvers are a part of the U.S. aggression against Central America. There was a similar reaction by the Trotskyist Workers Socialist Party (PST), which mobilized in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest this war exercise. According to a prominent PC member, not simply Panama but Costa Rica and Honduras also have unique tasks in this operation, which involves all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and powerful and dangerous arsenals, including nuclear weapons. Although the National Guard and U.S. Southern Command spokesmen have hurried to deny any relationship between the different operation and have described them as merely coincidence, the communists and the socialists insist that "Kindle Liberty 83" is the result of a strategy of aggression concocted in the laboratories of the Defense Department.

## COSTA RICA

### NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ACCUSED OF POLITICKING

PA170439 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 9A

[Paid advertisement by the Free Costa Rica Movement: "The Ambassador's Dinners'"]

[Text] The mansion housing the Nicaraguan Embassy, adjoining that of its master, the Soviet Embassy, is being used for a serious of sumptuous dinners during which food and wine flow freely. These dinners are sort of movie sessions where the "mangy dog" representative shows a movie filmed by Cuban specialists, members of the occupation troops in Nicaragua.

The full-length movie is shown to the Costa Rican guests, including deputies, some of whom belong to the opposition.

The movie is full of lies aimed at discrediting Costa Rican Government officials and leaders of political and civic organizations, including the Free Costa Rica Movement.

As an organization, we are not the least concerned about the "mangy dogs" government's lies against our groups.

We would be concerned, however, if we were praised by officials and "leaders" of a government that stole and betrayed a revolution and harbors the murderers of a Costa Rican civil guard. That would really upset and embarrass us. We do believe, however, that it is an act of disrespect to our country and its leaders to invite political leaders to a diplomatic mission, under the pretext of dinner and drinks, to show them a movie full of lies and slander against Costa Rican Government leaders. What kind of a diplomatic mission is the Nicaraguan Embassy?

What moral authority do these gentlemen have to organize these "political" parties when members of that very same mission were expelled from our country, accused of participating in criminal terrorist acts?

How long will our government stand for such activities by the representatives of the Sandinist RCB olution? [Capitals published in original]. And, worst of all, isn't it an insult to our country that some local leaders are attending such attacks against our own country?

### IMF MISSION REOPENS OFFICES IN SAN JOSE

PA172200 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1313 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] San Jose, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Miguel Bonangelino, president of the IMF mission for Costa Rica, has arrived in San Jose to reopen the IMF's offices here and to install its new resident representative, Salvador Umana, before the Costa Rican economic authorities.

"Diplomatic" relations between the IMF and Costa Rica were broken off at the end of President Rodrigo Carazo's administration when the IMF closed all credits to Costa Rica and the local representative criticized the government.

## EL SALVADOR

### MAGANA ANNOUNCES NEW PHASE AGAINST GUERRILLAS

PA172315 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Feb 83 p 20-A

[Part One of interview by correspondent Victor Hugo Nurillo -- date not given]

[Text] San Salvador -- A new phase in the struggle against the leftist guerrillas who for the past 3 years have been hitting El Salvador was announced by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana Borja.

In an exclusive interview with LA NACION, President Magana says that the solution to the conflict "is not strictly military," but that it also calls for a strategy of socio-economic development of regions that were in the hands of the FMLN but which are now under armed forces control.

Magana, who assumed power on 2 May 1982 after the Constituent Assembly elected him provisional president, also expresses relative confidence in the trend of the country's economy, which is seriously affected by the civil war and the rebels' sabotage campaign.

Regarding the new way of facing FMLN activities, President Magana says: "We are going to remain in the zones we have cleared." He adds that the government is going to implement a program of activities in the public health, education, road repair, support for agricultural activities and the establishing of small agricultural industries.

The National Commission of Reconstruction of Affected Areas (Conara), composed of representatives of six ministries, was recently created for this purpose, President Magana says. The commission led President Magana to believe that part of the failure of agrarian reforms, implemented in 1980 during Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic government, is due to the climate of violence in the rural zone.

However, Magana believes that the armed forces will have enough capacity to restore the peasants' confidence and guarantee them protection, so they can return to their villages and stop abandoning them.

Besides, he adds, "the problem is created by the guerrillas during harvest time; that is when they do the most damage" and not during the growing period (between March and October).

President Magana feels that the job that Conara will do permits him to say that "when I leave," -- he will govern until 1984 -- "I am not going to leave ruins."

For the president, a man dedicated most of the time to the activities of the private bank, the country's economic problem can be attributed to two factors: One is internal, the guerrillas; the other is external, the world's economic recession. However, "I see favorable signs of an opposite trend to the one we were on," President Magana comments.

He gives as an example the drop in the inflationary rate from 18 to 11 percent during his administration and a slowing down in the fall of the nation's gross product last year. President Magana said that in 1980 El Salvador's gross national product was at least 9 percent on the negative side; in 1981, 9.5 percent; and in 1982, less than 4.5 percent. His goal is to reach 0 percent this year.

Magana also says that we have managed to increase the confidence among business sectors, that have three members on the Commission of Economic Reactivation established on 22 November 1982.

When asked about rumors of the return of capital to the country, Magana says "it is possible," but he does not confirm it. "One thing is certain; there are clear signs that businessmen are returning since the situation of tranquillity has generally improved."

Although in his opinion the Salvadoran economy "already touched bottom" and is slowly recovering, he does not set all the bells ringing. Instead, he is very cautious.

Claims No Government Crisis

PA172143 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 20-A

[Part Two of interview by correspondent Victor Hugo Murillo -- date not given]

[Text] San Salvador -- Despite recent government difficulties produced by cabinet changes, President Dr Alvaro Magana Borja believes there is no crisis in his relations with the parties, or in relations among themselves.

In the second part of an interview with LA NACION, he says some political groups are upset due to "evident confusion" concerning the agreement whereby the national unity government distributed the power quotas and about the Apaneca pact signed in August 1982.

Magana admits his estimate of July 1982, when he said the country's main problem was approaching a solution sooner than expected, was mistaken. Now he says it "is not easy" to eradicate the leftist guerrillas.

Two Different Things

To explain the recent differences with his government resulting from his December resignation request to all ministers and the appointment of the new health minister in January, the chief of state offers details about the origin of that provisional administration.

Not having the support of any party in particular, he points out, he requested support from these groups in order to have a political base.

"I kept some ministries to make the appointments myself," while the others were distributed among the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) and the National Conciliation Party (PCN). This is the interparty agreement.

The Apaneca Pact, signed by the PDC, PDN, Arena and the Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS), "is the initiative to try to identify similar objectives among the parties and seek a common denominator that will offer an ideological foundation" for the government, Magana explains. This pact contains the basic socio-political platform of El Salvador's Government.

Administrative Efficiency

At the same time, he affirms that the number of ministries for each party "is my decision and I can change it whenever I please," the chief executive places the public administration's efficiency over any other commitment to a political group: "Besides maintaining a national unity government it is my purpose to ensure that the cabinet posts are efficiently handled."

This explains his resignation request to all ministers last December. "I evaluated each post on the basis of efficiency and honesty. I am free to make any readjustments."

All parties except Arena readily accepted the president's request. Magana interprets Arena's attitude by saying that "they believed I wanted to take some ministries away from them."

He adds that he began to observe some problems in the Public Health Ministry in October. The minister at the time was Fernando Berrios. "The person who suggested that I request the ministers' resignation by Christmas was Roberto d'Aubuisson (Arena leader and Constituent Assembly president)."

Although he publicly admits the above and his group put aside the negative aspects, Magana considers this attitude "most unfortunate," because "it creates a totally different image of interparty relations and of the parties that support me."

Harmony?

The Salvadoran chief of state feels that although there are differences among the groups in the assembly, these involve form rather than substance. Issues discussed in the executive branch are generally unanimously approved, he says, reaffirming his claim of harmony within the government.

Moreover, he emphasizes: "I never had problems with Arena or any other party. Perhaps they consider me a necessary evil."

His opinion, however, strongly contrasts with the fact that Arena has not yet accepted the replacement of Berrios by Dr Napoleon Cardenas in the Public Health Ministry. The appointment of Cardenas -- a member of the Democratic Action Party (AD), which has two deputies -- strongly annoyed D'Aubuisson and Arena. Both demand that the Constitutent Assembly, which ratified the appointment, reverse its decision.

The assembly firmly maintained its position on Wednesday and did not yield to the pressures to annul the 27 January session during which D'Aubuisson was also deprived of several powers he held as assembly president. Arena's top leader threatened to quit the assembly if his demands (annulment of the appointment and restitution of his powers) were not met.

The appointment of Cardenas is perfectly normal to Magana and it is within his power to appoint and remove ministers freely. In that aspect, he says he would not change his position.

Stationary Activity

Referring to the activity of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the president placed little importance on the latest offensive launched by that group in January, just when the armed forces faced a serious international conflict due to the rebellion of Col Sigifredo Ochoa, former Cabanas Department commander.

The chief of state says that the FMLN is trying to gain publicity through its actions, to block the U.S. Congressional aid approval and to give the impression of its ability to force a negotiation.

MILITARY REPORTS REBEL ATTACK ON AGUILARES

PA171649 San Salvador DIARIO EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Text], A large group of guerrillas equipped with automatic weapons and rocket launchers tried to occupy the city of Aguilares last night and early this morning. At the same time, other groups attacked the civil defense post guarding the bridge over the Acelhuate River, San Geronimo canton, km 30 of the Northern Highway, and the installations at Hacienda la Cabana, military sources reported today.

The attack on Aguilares began at approximately 2200. The guerrillas shouted out from various parts of the suburbs that the area was surrounded and that they were concentrating additional forces to occupy it. Snipers fired sporadically at various targets, particularly at the civil defense barracks, the local command post, the national guardsmen and the army troops. While the shooting was going on, the guerrillas fired flares, illuminating various sectors of Aguilares, and tried to intimidate the inhabitants, the sources indicated. It was added that in view of this situation, the military garrisons deployed their troops and repelled the attack. Harrassment operations continued until 0330 this morning, it was said.

While this took place in Aguilares, other subversive groups staged a strong attack on the Aguilares civil defense garrison, which guards the bridge over Acelhuate River, 2 km south of that city. In the attack there, which also began at 2200, the extremists shouted that the people should surrender because other companeros were occupying Aguilares.

At Hacienda la Cabana, 12 km from Aguilares, the guerrillas staged another attack, firing and shouting that "everyone is going to reinforce the occupation of Aguilares." At about 2200, an Air Force helicopter flew over km 28 of the Northern Highway and attacked the subversives, who fired back. The aircraft spent only 30 minutes in the area.

Finally, it was learned that there was a skirmish in the area of the Hacienda Ingenio el Trapichon, but no report of casualties or of the situation prevailing in the area was received as of this morning.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK SUCHITOTO; SEIZE RADIO STATIONS

PA172106 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY 17 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] Extremist groups attacked and isolated Suchitoto for the second time in 5 days, and official sources reported there was heavy fighting in the region. Subversives moved toward the town early yesterday morning from the east and west, and seized a 14-km stretch of the road to San Salvador.

Suchitoto residents said there was heavy automatic weapons fire all morning, but that everything was calm by now. They did not report on any casualties among soldiers, rebels or civilians.

Army troops in the region were ordered to leave six posts they were guarding on the road to Suchitoto in order to reinforce the town, the sources added. Suchitoto residents expressed their fear that terrorists might leave the city without food, by blocking trucks transporting water and provisions for this city. They added that many refugees fleeing from nearby scenes of fighting have arrived in the city.

Extremists dynamited the portable water system a year ago, and residents have to get water from a river close to the city. There are frequent blackouts.

Terrorists attacked on Friday, seized the road and isolated the town. Twenty-five soldiers were killed during the clashes. In addition, 25 civilians who were trapped in the crossfire are still missing.

Reports also indicate that guerrilla groups attacked army vigilance posts in Concepcion, Quezaltepeque, in Chalatenango Department, by surprise. No casualties have been reported from either side.

The army offensive to search for guerrilla hideouts that began yesterday continued on the skirts of the San Vicente volcano. Two soldiers were killed and four wounded in sporadic clashes during the past 2 days of the operation.

Subversive groups yesterday broke into seven radio stations in various cities in the country and forced announcers at gunpoint to transmit recorded messages for 30 minutes, and then fled.

## GUERRILLAS' DOCUMENTS FOUND IN LA GUACAMAYA

PA172215 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Feb 83 pp 5, 33

[Excerpt] According to the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, evidence found in La Guacamaya, Morazan Department, where the armed forces destroyed a terrorist hideout, points to certain guerrilla weaknesses. Coprefa added that "finding themselves at loss, subversives are leaving the few camps they still have in this region in the hands of strangers."

"The enemies of our homeland can no longer proclaim that their irrational struggle is being conducted by our people. The names of various Latin American and European mercenaries found in documents confiscated in La Guacamaya are irrefutable evidence of the foreign help received by the increasingly abandoned extremist groups," the Coprefa report noted.

The report added that, according to the documents found in La Guacamaya, subversives reported missing by various organizations are working for the terrorists, destroying and massacring their own people.

## CHICHONTEPEC ACTION KILLS 80 GUERRILLAS

PA172344 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Feb 83 pp 2, 23

[Text] Soldiers of the Armed Forces Engineering Training Center have been intensively searching for 19 soldiers, 10 civil defense members and a cadet on the skirts of the Chichontepec volcano, north of Zacatecoluca, according to reports from this military unit.

Col (Marco Antonio Alfaro Callejas), who commands these forces, said that no one can be sure that they were killed, since their bodies have not been found and there is no evidence to confirm their death.

Colonel (Alfaro) said that at least 80 extremists were killed in the past 2 days in clashes north of Zacatecoluca. He added that the seach, discovery and destruction of terrorist camps will continue all week or longer if necessary.

The officer said that the 19 soldiers, 10 civil defense members and 1 cadet were not present at rollcall for the troops participating in the aforementioned operations. The search for these men began immediately.

Col (Marco Antonio Alfaro Callejas) said that a military patrol was ambushed while driving around the northern side of areas close to the Chichontepec volcano, but no bodies were found there. It is therefore believed that the men are alive and dispersed, or captured by terrorists.

## FDR'S UNGO INTERVIEWED ON CRISIS, NEGOTIATIONS

### Relations With U.S.

PA120306 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 Feb 83

["Special Edition" commentary]

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, is in Madrid participating in preparatory meetings for the Socialist International congress that will be held in Sydney, Australia. Robert Oscar, our correspondent in Madrid, spoke with Ungo about the Socialist International's present and future role in Latin America.

[Begin recording] [Ungo, in progress]...and the process is still incomplete. Dealing with government parties is not the same as dealing with opposition parties. There are different developments, unequal developments in Europe itself and in Latin America, various political conditions that are more unfavorable and more [word indistinct]. Therefore, there are great vacuums, great gaps that have yet to be filled; but if we look at the increased communication, the improved relations that have brought about greater solidarity between the 1976 Caracas summit and 1983, we can see that there has been advancement every year.

[Question] Won't this Socialist International plan clash with the Monroe Doctrine?

[Answer] That doctrine clashes with various countries and governments to a greater or lesser degree. Obviously, it clashes most with us Latin Americans ourselves, particularly as we are dealing with a Monroe Doctrine that is more militant and militarized than ever.

[Question] What are the chances of a practical application by the socialist parties, both those in the opposition and those in the government, of what we could call the new attitude? For example, it is a fact that, in an effort to reach peaceful agreements in Latin America, it may be necessary to talk with dictatorships or with governments that are illegitimate from the moral or ethical viewpoint, which at times may even lead to problems like that with which Felipe Gonzalez is now faced: The presence of the mothers of (Mayra) here in Madrid. It is likely that, in order to avoid doing harm to certain diplomatic initiatives, he has been unable to receive them as yet.

[Answer] Well, it is necessary to try to strike a balance as best as one can and to then draw conclusions about costs and benefits in each specific case. This has some advantages too, not just disadvantages. Basically, the principle of political pluralism is gaining ground increasingly. In other words, there are political realities and needs. Of course, politics must be based on political ethics, but these are two different things that must not be confused with each other.

We ourselves are proposing a dialogue with an illegitimate and criminal Salvadoran Government that, at any given moment, could take more favorable positions toward the search for a democratic solution. What is happening at the moment is that the cruel and bloodthirsty extreme right, which wants only to maintain the status quo -- a situation that is unjust; an unjust economic and social structure that it is prepared to defend at all costs -- is still imposing its will and is subduing other military and civilian sectors.

Therefore, it is necessary in politics, to take all of these facts and needs into account in attaining one's objectives, without distorting the nature of those objectives, which are to obtain democracy, freedom and social justice for our people.

[Question] I don't wish to delay you too much. Here is a final question. Do you feel that an idea that I think is at present no more than a rumor that emerged in the wake of Thomas Enders' visit to Madrid -- namely, the possibility of Spanish mediation between Cuba and Washington -- is feasible?

[Answer] I believe that it is premature. Washington has not shown any real, specific signs of being politically inclined to resolve the problems in Central America and the Caribbean by taking the civilized path of seeking understanding through negotiations. It speaks of this only because it must whitewash its savage policy somewhat.

However, there may be historical stimulants that might bring so much international influence, opinion and pressure to bear that Washington could be forced to change its position. At the moment, I don't think it possible. In fact, whenever negotiations are mentioned, the first thing that the Americans do is to state the solutions they want. It is not possible to negotiate if one first sets down preconditions and formulas that one is prepared to defend. [end recording]

## More on Dialogue

PA121856 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1231 GMT 12 Feb 83

[By Oscar Peyrou: all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Madrid, 12 Feb (EFE) -- If the Salvadoran authorities insist on "pacifying" the country only through the path of violence, they will be defeated politically and militarily, Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR], stated today regarding that Central American nation. Ungo is participating in the Spanish capital in preparatory meetings for the next Socialist International congress.

In an exclusive statement to EFE, the FDR leader said that the situation in El Salvador is "complex, dramatic and difficult, with positive and negative aspects; it is not pleasant to see a country immersed in a war of death and destruction."

"We have demonstrated many times," Ungo stated, "our political will to seek a democratic and lasting solution. However, the current Salvadoran Government and the Reagan administration want to 'pacify' the country by prolonging, spreading and extending the war, that is, pacification through the path of death."

"It becomes more evident with time," he said, "that this final manner of facing the problem is doomed to failure; and "if they insist on the path of violence, they will be defeated militarily and politically."

As for possible U.S. intervention in Central America, the Salvadoran politician said that "there could be an all-out, extended war in Central America with massive U.S. intervention." He added that "we cannot exclude that possibility because we know of similar experiences."

Ungo believes that each conflict has its internal causes, and that the conflicts in Central America "are the product of antidemocratic, repressive and exclusive trends that have been occurring for many years." In the case of El Salvador, he noted, the problems began in 1932 with the massacre of approximately 30,000 peasants.

Regarding possible relations between the FDR and the U.S. Democrats, Ungo replied that this was a very complicated matter. "It is difficult for us to work in so many levels, instances and places. Furthermore, it is not easy for some of our militants to enter the United States," he said.

"We have maintained increasingly continuous relations with the North Americans, not only with the Democrats, but also with the various sectors of influence in policy decisions, and this includes congressmen and senators, both Democrats and Republicans," the FDR leader explained.

Asked about possible conversations between the FDR and the Salvadoran authorities, Ungo said that "we proposed a dialogue without conditions to the military. To impose conditions is one way of blocking dialogue."

"Dialogue we have maintained up to now has been like the prelude to the possibility of an understanding on what points can be negotiable," the Salvadoran politician noted.

Ungo pointed out that the FDR wants to negotiate a lasting and democratic political solution, and "we do not want to betray the people." He insisted that when one negotiates one must be prepared to make concessions and not adopt extremist positions, "as the Salvadoran Government and the Reagan administration are doing."

Asked if the FDR has begun talks with sectors of the Salvadoran Army, either directly or indirectly, Ungo responded that this was impossible, because it would be viewed by the military authorities as a conspiracy. "Whoever took part in that conversation would be repressed and assassinated, as has occurred in the past few years," he noted.

Ungo also said that there are some indications of a schism within the Salvadoran Army. He stated that in 1979 there was a military coup that involved an important group of young officers who proposed a democratic and anti-oligarchic process of structural changes, but that sector was subsequently removed from the chain of command.

"Now," he said, "there has been a rebirth of that current. There are military men who side exclusively with war, and others, more reformist, who are in favor of war with reforms. That last group includes those who favor negotiations to end the violence."

Regarding Spain's role in a possible mediation or negotiation, Ungo affirmed that that might be "important, but not exclusive." "Latin American," Ungo noted, "must also be present to build a favorable scenario for the negotiations."

The Salvadoran FDR is comprised of the National Revolutionary Movement, the Social Christian Movement, the independent Movement of Professionals and Technicians, the principal labor federations, the national university, the Catholic university (as observer) and the mass revolutionary organizations that group labor fronts.

## Spain, Pope's Role Considered

PM151741 Madrid YA in Spanish 11 Feb 83 p 14

[Interview with Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front Leader Guillermo Ungo in Madrid; undated, unattributed]

[Text] [Question] Do you consider a political solution possible in El Salvador or do you see only a military solution as viable?

[Answer] I believe that as time passes the impossibility of a purely military solution is becoming increasingly apparent. Unfortunately, the Salvadoran Government and the U.S. administration refuse to see it that way and are persisting with and stepping up the war and seeking a pacification by means of destruction and death. I believe that a negotiated political solution is the only really viable option.

[Question] So is international mediation under way to end the war? Recent visitors to Madrid have included U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Enders and Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Rodriquez, and now you are here....

[Answer] I know of no negotiation process underway; what I am aware of are specific ethical acts by the Reagan administration which tend to contradict this.

[Question] Are the visits by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Enders and the Cuban vice premier to Madrid and your presence here purely a coincidence or are they connected in some way?

[Answer] I was not aware that the Cuban vice premier was going to be here and I was also unaware of the plans for Enders' visit. I came here for a specific purpose, namely the Socialist International meeting. However, it seems that the conditions for negotiations have existed for some time. The point is that this requires the political will on several sides, and the doors to a dialogue are not being opened by the Salvadoran Government and its principal backer, the U.S. Administration.

[Question] What role could Spain play?

[Answer] It is very difficult at present -- until these doors to a dialogue are opened -- to know what more specific roles various nations, political leaders and governments could play. In principle, it seems to me that it is still difficult to be specific, apart from mediation or good offices. What is needed as a priority is to create an international climate and scenario that will facilitate understanding and a solution in El Salvador by the Salvadorans themselves. In this connection I would stress Spain's role -- not in isolation, but with its stance integrated with a combination of Latin American and European governments. I believe that I cannot yet forecast Spain's specific role. It depends on several factors. But we are sure that Spain, on account of its experience of democratic development, its historical ties with Latin America and its nature as a European nation, has the moral and political authority to play a major role in contributing to the quest for peace in El Salvador.

[Question] In your opinion should the United States and Cuba be involved in these negotiations too?

[Answer] As I have told you, it is a complex process. The El Salvador problem will not be resolved, nor will we agree to its being resolved, by international forces; it must be resolved by the Salvadorans themselves.

[Question] Would a rapprochement be possible between your party, of social democratic leanings, and Christian Democrats such as Duarte?

[Answer] I prefer not to discuss the possibilities of dialogue in personal terms. It is the political forces that count. The extreme right's distancing from he other right-wing sectors that make up the present government has not been consolidated. The Christian Democratic Party is still negotiating and conducting a dialogue with D'Aubuisson, although it disagrees with him, whereas it does not venture to conduct a dialogue or negotiate with us. We have the will for an understanding.

[Question] Will the visit by the pope, who will visit your country and other Central American countries next month, help to encourage the pacification process? How do you assess the papal visit?

[Answer] I cannot issue a final or complete verdict. I do not know what the pope's intentions are, whether his intentions are political as well as pastoral. This is not easy to discover, because each of the countries he is to visit has a different situation and a different kind of regime. The pope cannot abandon his capacity as head of the Vatican state and will in some way have to legitimize the various kinds of government. As for El Salvador, I believe that he has positive points, because his language, though expressed on a religious plane, is a language in favor of dialogue, understanding, the quest for peace, and this coincides with our own stances and positions. Apart from this, I believe we must await specific acts during the visit. We shall see whether the pope goes to the cathedral to visit the remains of Monsignor Romero, who is the principal martyr of the Latin American church.

## FMLN Victory Predicted

PA172019 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Paris (ANN) -- Salvadoran leader Guillermo Ungo declared here that the FMLN-Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) "have the chance to secure a political-military victory in a relatively short period of time."

In a statement published yesterday by the morning newspaper LIBERATION, Ungo noted that it is "difficult to predict the moment of that victory because of the growing threat of U.S. Government intervention, but I would start by counting months, perhaps 10 or 20 months."

The Salvadoran leader noted that the FMLN's offensive capability has improved, while the army's has diminished and conflicts within the government have increased. "There is a crisis of authority, as is demonstrated by the case of the defense minister, whose resignation was demanded by the ultraright," he added.

As for an eventual direct U.S. intervention in El Salvador, Ungo said that "it is growing more difficult and more costly and would have fewer chances of success with each passing day, but we cannot dismiss it as a possibility."

The FDR-FMLN leader stressed that the rebels' military offensive has created better conditions for negotiations, but he noted that the Reagan administration and the Salvadoran Government have rejected various peace initiatives put forward by Nicaragua, France, Mexico and Panama, as well as the most recent proposal for talks between Honduras and Nicaragua.

HAVANA REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

PA171950 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Although U.S. President Ronald Reagan states the opposite, the violation of human rights in El Salvador continues to be one of the greatest dramas in Latin America and the world. This was stated by the legal assistance office of the Archbishopric of San Salvador. The office added that Reagan certified before the U.S. Congress that there had been an improvement in respect for human rights in El Salvador because the number of civilians killed last year dropped to 5,400, not taking into account the fact that the Salvadoran regime's repressive structure and its determination to kill those who oppose it have not changed. The office adds that the Salvadoran regime no longer even tries to give the impression that there has been a reduction in the killings in order to qualify for U.S. economic and military aid, because it realizes that as far as respect for human rights in El Salvador is concerned, Reagan will always certify crazy things before the U.S. Congress.

According to the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, which has been outlawed for 2 years, 672 civilians were killed last year in this Central American country by indiscriminate bombings and because of the repressive actions of the army and paramilitary bands, which have never ceased to operate around the clock. In addition to the endless chain of killings, the office adds, there are hundreds of political prisoners in the country who watch life go by from behind bars, without even being told the charges against them.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Chichontepec Successes

PA170405 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Our people continue disarming Garcia's troops. According to a report from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front in San Vicente Department, our guerrilla forces ambushed a company from the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers, Ceiifa, that was staging an operation at (El Perical) farm, at Chichontepec volcano.

The fighting developed as follows: At 0900 our forces attacked the enemy columns that were engaged in combing operations and managed to divide them and encircle their vanguard and a part of their main force. After heavy fighting, the encircled enemy force was wiped out and the dictatorship's troops were forced to flee at random. The rest of the unit went to the enemy base at (Siete Joyas).

The results of this successful operation at Chichontepec were as follows: The FMLN captured 23 prisoners of war -- 23 Ceiifa soldiers. In these battles, the dictatorship suffered 11 deaths, including a lieutenant by the last name of (Marquina). We seized 18 M-16 rifles, 1 FAL rifle, 1 M-1 carbine, 7 Czech rifles, 1 45-mm pistol, 1 90-mm cannon, 1 M-60 machinegun, 1 military radio and a large quantity of ammunition and war supplies. We regret the heroic fall of one fighter.

It must be noted that the Ceiifa troops are noted for their crimes against the civilian residents of the central and coastal areas of San Vicente Department. Last year approximately 800 peasants were murdered there. This way, our revolutionary army is victoriously advancing and defeating the dictatorship, thus rendering homage to our heroes and martyrs.

The captured soldiers, totalling 23, are being attended to by our troops and will be released in the usual FMLN practice. The report is signed by Commander (Milton) of the General Staff of the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front.

Battle for Suchitoto

PA180410 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Feb

[Text] Our people are on the way to seizing power. The revolutionary army continues defeating the dictatorship everywhere. We will now relay to our people the reports reaching Radio Venceremos. The first one comes from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. The new developments in the fighting at Calle Neuva are as follows:

As is known, since 10 February our military forces have maintained full and absolute control over Calle Nueva, the highway from San Martin to Suchitoto, and have kept the enemy from entering through access routes.

Heavy fighting took place since early in the afternoon on 16 February in the vicinity of Suchitoto. At night the fighting turned into heavy battles in the surbuban districts of Suchitoto, in the direction of the city's downtown area.

On the morning of 17 February, our siege of the city as well as our firm and tight control over the highway were maintained. As we had reported, enemy planes bombed and fired rockets indiscriminately over densely populated areas on the morning of 16 February. Seven helicopters and three planes -- two A-37's and a Hercules C-105 -- of those delivered by Reagan to the Salvadoran dictatorship -- participated in these actions of the genocidal air force. The helicopters carried out 11 flights, sometimes involving four helicopters simultaneously.

In the southern area, we seized the San Martin park, the college and the school complex. In the south, our military forces fought in the vicinity of the enemy forces' headquarters.

As of this moment, the net result of the actions in Suchitoto is unknown. However, the fighting has been heavy all through 17 February. The number of enemy casualties is unknown at this moment. The results of the actions in Suchitoto will be reported to our people during further broadcasts.

So far, we can state that the dictatorship is desperate. The massive use of aircraft indicates the degree of the dictatorship's demoralization in the face of our revolutionary army's advances. A revolutionary greeting to our forces at the Modesto Ramirez Front, who are constantly striking at the forces of the ultrarightist dictatorship. Onward, Companeros!

## GUATEMALA

### REGIME GUARANTEES POPE'S SECURITY DURING VISIT

PA172348 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1233 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government has guaranteed the security of Pope John Paul II during his visit to the country in March, adding that the death threats against the holy father are the work of a "madman."

Presidential spokesman Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro said that some deranged person had sent anonymous death threats to Pope John Paul II, but said that he does not believe that anyone would be capable of making an attempt on the pope's life in Guatemala.

"The government is working carefully on his security and is drafting an efficient security forces plan that will not permit any attempt on the life of the holy father," added Austrias Montenegro.

The Interior and Defense Ministries have been placed in charge of the pope's security while he is in Guatemala and, although it has not been made public, they have prepared a vast security plan for the pope and his entourage.

Cardinal Mario Casariego y Acevedo, archbishop of Guatemala, received several anonymous notes in the last few days with death threats against the pope during his upcoming visit to Guatemala and against the Cardinal himself for "having invited" the pope to visit the country.

## HONDURAS

### PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON REJECTION BY NONALIGNED

PA171724 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Government deplores yesterday's decision in New York by the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau to reject Honduras' application to participate in this forum as an observer.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said: "We expected this, being aware of the traditions in the Nonaligned Movement, which Honduras feels is of great significance because of the number of nations, races and ideologies from various continents that it represents."

"We regret that this has happened," Paz Barnica said. "However, the same thing has happened to other countries that are obviously democratic, like Honduras. They have also been the victims of these contradictions, which probably arose because the movement has departed from some of its original ideas. We believe that it will return to these ideas at the next conference in New Delhi, when India, one of its founding members, take over the presidency and leadership of the Nonaligned Movement."

Honduras' application was rejected by a vast number of opposing members, led by Nicaragua. As for Nicaragua's attitude, Paz Barnica said: "It was expected." Once more the Sandinist government has revealed its lack of international consistency, because during the nonaligned meeting in Managua last month it called on Latin American and developing countries to join the organization.

Paz Barnica feels that democratic governments like those of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama -- whose foreign ministers, in a recent meeting on Contadora Island, also urged Latin American countries to join the Nonaligned Movement -- will not share in the attitude toward Honduras reflected in this decision.

Paz Barnica concluded: "We will remain on our path, for the diplomatic struggle of countries that work for peace and democracy, as Honduras does, must run into occasional obstacles like this."

OPPOSITION PARTIES PROPOSE POLITICAL PACT

PA172358 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Political leaders of the Innovation and Unity Party, Pinu, the National Party of Honduras, PNH, and the Honduran Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, met privately yesterday in an action viewed as prelude to a full national dialogue. These three parties are considered the initiators of the great encounter or great national dialogue to include political and social sectors involved in the country's political life.

"The Political Minute" has learned that the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. The leaders discussed various national problems regarding government actions, and some irregularities that various political sectors and certain prominent liberals have been criticizing.

Political and diplomatic circles revealed that the leaders who attended the first meeting of the great encounter or great national dialogue were Miguel Andonie Fernandez, of the Pinc, Manuel Acosta Bonilla and Ricardo Zuniga Agustinus of the PNH, Alfredo Landaverde of the PDCH, and (Ricardo Maduro), also of the PNH.

The PNH leaders initially suggested as the basis for an analysis a proposal that some leaders have termed the pact for struggle to defend democracy. This proposal calls for asking the National Congress to open a debate to be conducted with high-mindedness and civic awareness on the problems affecting the country, so that the dialogue that the leaders have initiated can be the beginning of a broad understanding among all national sector.

"The Political Minute" also learned yesterday from sources linked to these sectors that these parties will maintain their opposition to the Liberal government, to further violations of constitutional laws, abuse of power by some high government officials, and above all, they wish to protect Honduras from falling into the struggle affecting Central America.

## NICARAGUA

SOVIET PEACE OFFICIALS VIEW U.S. THREATS

PA172010 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] This year is a decisive one for humankind's existence and development, with the danger of a third world war, involving nuclear weapons, between the two opposing camps; capitalism, represented by U.S. imperialism and its allies in NATO, which represents the arms buildup policy of death to millions of human beings and the destruction of civilization; and the USSR and its Warsaw Pact [WPC] allies, who represent the hope for social progress and justice for millions of human beings. Given this situation, only the national peace movements coordinated by the WPC can stop the imminent threat of disaster. This was stated last night in a lecture by Viktor Vol'skiy, director of the Latin American Institute, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and president of the Association of Friendship with Latin American Countries; and by Enrique Pilia, chief of the department of the Soviet Peace Council.

Companero Vol'skiy examined the threat looming over humankind of extermination by nuclear war. He said that British warships carried nuclear weapons during the Malvinas War and that a warship that was sunk by the Argentine Air Force was carrying an atomic bomb that is now at the bottom of the ocean.

Vol'skiy said that shortly after World War II, the United States began to make plans to exterminate the USSR. Since then, the USSR has had to maintain weapons parity with the United States in order to keep the balance in atomic and nuclear weapons and to preserve world peace.

The United States has tried to break that balance, to guarantee its exploitive and dominating imperialist power. It has not achieved this, however, because the USSR has invested similar and even better weapons than those of the United States.

The USSR has never attacked any country, while in its 200-year-old history the United States has initiated 200 aggressive wars, Vol'skiy said. But times have changed and it has now suffered defeats in Vietnam, Angola, Nicaragua and other countries.

Since 1944, Vol'skiy said, the United States has produced 30 new lethal weapons; the USSR, in order to keep the balance, has had to manufacture the same number.

However, the new U.S. missiles, bombers and nuclear submarines have broken that balance, and although talks have been held in Geneva for 9 years, not much has been done to end the arms race, which produces huge profits for the U.S. arms industry.

Vol'skiy said that only the people can end that arms race and in that context he announced that a very important event will soon be held in Nicaragua; a Latin American conference against imperialist aggression, the arms race and nuclear war.

For his part, Enrique Pilia said that in 1943 high-ranking U.S. Army staff officers said in a secret document that great changes were taking place in the world, similar to those that occurred when the Roman Empire fell, and that the USSR was beginning to be seen as a world power.

He said that the United States is currently deciding to attack the USSR this February simply by pushing a button. [sentence as published] Thirty minutes would be needed to discover such an attack.

Nevertheless, he said that the USSR will not stand with folded arms, noting that it could also make weapons with such range that they could reach the United States in a matter of minutes. The struggle, he said, is to keep such a nuclear war from taking place. Thus, the people should rise up in great movements for peace and against war.

## SAN JOSE FORUM FOR PEACE REPORTED 'DEACTIVATED'

PA171645 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The deactivation of the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy was announced today through a declaration issued by the Salvadoran, Honduran and Costa Rican foreign ministers following their meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. This forum, which was a product of the Reagan administration, lasted only 4 months. According to the foreign ministers' declaration, it only served to reveal the loss of influence of the policy of all alliances promoted by the U.S. Government.

Prior to the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy, the U.S. Government experimented with the creation of the Central American Democratic Community, which also proved a complete failure shortly afterward, according to a PRENSA LATINA report. Even while the declaration that put an end to the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy was being issued, an estrangement was seen between the Costa Rican and Honduran foreign ministers and that of El Salvador, who said that his government refuses to hold a dialogue with the Salvadoran opposition.

CULTURE MINISTER CONCEDES CHURCH-STATE TENSION

PA180146 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2357 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Madrid, 16 Feb (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal today conceded in Madrid that tension exists between the church and state in his country.

In statement to EFE, Cardenal said that "everywhere there are two churches; one that supports that right and one that supports the left." Cardenal arrived here from Paris on his way to Managua.

"The differences are not the ological or moral," he said, "but political. This becomes more evident when a country experiences a deep change, a revolution, as has Nicaragua."

He emphasized that "the majority of Nicaraguan Catholics -- laymen, priests and nuns -- are with the revolution, but some are not." In the latter group he included some bishops; specifically, the archbishop of Managua.

Cardenal confirmed Pope John Paul II's visit to Nicaragua on 4 March. He said that "the pope will be received by the government junta and the bishops, and he will hold an open air mass at the 19 July park, which is our largest park."

On the tense situation in Nicaragua, Cardenal said that "the war is an obstacle for everyone. It takes our resources that could be used for schools, medicines or culture, but at the same time war makes the people more combative, more heroic and strengthens the culture."

"There can be no authentic culture without a national identity, or independence and sovereignty without a dependent culture. We have achieved the culture of a free people who are defending themselves with their own weapons," said Cardenal.

"Culture is also defending the revolution and taking song, poetry and the theater to the trenches, where the fight is being waged against the murderers armed by the United States who enter Nicaraguan territory."

Ernesto Cardenal conceded that on several occasion there was danger of Nicaragua being invaded and that precautionary measures were taken to save the national artistic and historic treasures. "We recently learned that plans were being made to invade Nicaragua at the beginning of December. These plans were postponed. We are not certain that they have desisted, but it appears to have become more difficult for them," said Cardenal.

The minister, who said he had made no political contacts during his visit to Spain, commented on the coincidence of his visit with that of Eden Pastora, known as "Commander Cero," who is now opposed to the Nicaraguan Government Junta.

Cardenal said he did not know why Pastora was in Madrid, although in his opinion, Pastora "did not come on a vacation, but to see what he could do in the political field" against the Sandinist government since, "having no troops, he can do nothing else."

MONTANE OROPESA ATTACKS REACAN ADMINISTRATION

FL171925 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] In an interview for the Syrian newspaper AL-BA'TH, Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that the Reagan administration is provoking a new spiraling increase in the arms race with its adventurous path.

Montane, who is also a member of the party's Secretariat, stressed that one of the trends of the White House is the vigorous aggressive campaign against Cuba and the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions.

He added that the U.S. Government is making everything possible to keep the Salvadoran regime in power and, to this end, it is sending U.S. and Israeli military advisers who are helping to massacre the people.

In conclusion, Montane emphasized that despite imperialist attempts the Magana regime is doomed to fail.

MALMIERCA REPORTS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY PLENUM

FL172005 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is holding its annual plenum at the main auditorium of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces]. The event is being headed by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of our party's Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, and Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister.

Malmierca reported on the work done in 1982 which rendered positive results. He urged Foreign Ministry employees to heed to the call issued by the sixth plenum of the party's Central Committee to be more demanding and to properly celebrate the 30th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks and the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

The winners of the emulation of this Ministry were announced and the comrades with 10, 15 and 20 years of service in Cuba's foreign relations received certificates.

DELEGATION RECEIVED BY 'ARAFAT IN ALGIERS

FL171359 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has met with the Cuban delegation attending the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers. During the meeting, 'Arafat repeated several times to Jorge Lezcano, vice president of Cuba's National Assembly, who heads the delegation, the gratitude of the Palestinian people and their combatants for Cuba's support for their cause. Likewise, the top PLO leader recalled the frequent messages exchanged with Commander In Chief Fidel Castro as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

OFFICIAL SIGNS 1983 TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA

FL180215 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] A trade protocol for the current year has been signed in Havana by Miguel A. Castillo, Cuban vice minister of foreign trade, and Marin Marinov, Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign trade. The Cuban-Bulgarian trade agreement forecasted bilateral trade of goods during this year to reach over 300 million rubles, or 18 percent more than in 1982.

Marinov said that at a time when the capitalist world remains clutched in the grip of its economic crisis, the increase of trade activity between Cuba and Bulgaria clearly demonstrates the advantage of the socialist system.

The increase of trade will call for Cuba to provide sugar and citrus products while Bulgaria will provide preserves, cheeses, chicken, perfumes, medicines, toys and other goods.

Ricardo Carbrizas, Cuban minister of foreign trade, also attended the signing ceremony.

HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

FL170045 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] An agreement between Cuba and Romania in the field of health and effective until 1986 was signed here today at the main offices of the Public Health Ministry. The agreement was signed by Sergio del Valle, member of the Politburo and minister of public health and Nicolae Moraru, Romanian ambassador to Cuba.

The agreement stipulated the exchange of scientific-technical literature and specialists as well as carrying out joint research, among other aspects. After the signing of the agreement, the Cuban minister siad that in this manner we are strengthening bilateral relations at a time when Cubans are determined to convert the country into a world medical power, an endeavor which cannot be accomplished without cooperation with the socialist camp.

The Romanian ambassador stressed the importance of the agreement in order to continue the multifaceted relations between the two countries and also to use the experience of specialists in a manner beneficial to the two countries.

VICE FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS AFGHANISTAN

FL170245 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Pelegrin Torras, Cuba's vice minister of foreign relations, has been received in Kabul by Shah Mohammad Dost, Afghanistan's minister of foreign affairs. During their talks, they discussed matters related to the upcoming seventh Nonaligned Movement summit conference in New Delhi.

SPARE PARTS MEETING ENDS WITH MIRET SPEECH

FL171540 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Guaranteeing the production of 307.2 million pesos in the manufacture and recovery of spare parts in 1983 is stated as a goal of the country's innovators and efficiency experts in the main report on the national production of spare parts in 1982, which was read by Steelworking Industry Minister Marcos Lage. The meeting ended yesterday at the Lazaro Pena auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] building.

The meeting was attended by 700 delegates and guests, mainly outstanding innovators and efficiency experts. The plenary session was chaired by Pedro Miret Prieto and Julio Camacho Aguilera, members of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, and Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and CTC secretary general.

Among the main tasks to be undertaken in 1983 are the creation of a system of individual and collective incentives for manufacturing and recovering spare parts. Likewise, provisions have been made to increase and broaden the production stocks and recovery of spare parts for tools, moulds and dies, aspects which constitute the foundation of all this effort.

Marcos Lage, in reading the main report, said that significant steps have been taken in 1983 to solve this vital problem of the national economy -- the production and recovery of spare parts. He added: [Begin Lage recording] As is well known, recently during the sixth party plenum a number of measures were enacted, some of which are related to the production of spare parts, which commit us to work harder to find the most viable solutions in response to the challenge the country has to meet. To do this, it will be necessary to deepen still further the technical-organizational measures which will make an increase in the production of spare parts possible. In this manner, we are convinced, we will make new advances in which all of the country's spare parts-producing organizations and enterprises will participate, as well as all our workers, under the leadership of our union, the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts [ANIR], the youth technical brigades, all led by our Communist Party. [end recording]

The report states that the total production of spare parts in 1982 amounted to 278.3 million pesos. Compared to 1981, the growth amounted to more than 90 percent. The document notes the workers' efforts in this respect, adding that despite the financial limitations and other subjective problems they had maintained the main equipment in operation. It also notes the efforts made in the production of spare parts for urban buses.

In his closing remarks, Pedro Miret Prieto stated that beginning in 1980, a continued rise had been attained in the level of production of spare parts. He said there was an awareness of the importance of the production and recovery of spare parts for the country's economy. Miret added that in order to recover, it is necessary to establish an industrial organization which will encompass each work station. He praised the work of the ANIR, the youth technical brigades and the CTC and its unions in the development of the recovery and production of spare parts.

Miret said that this year when we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks, all workers, technicians and leaders linked to this activity must make it the year of the recovery of spare parts.

CASTRO THANKS HENG SAMRIN FOR GREETINGS MESSAGE

BK160756 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, recently sent a message of thanks to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State. The message says, among other things:

On behalf of the Cuban party, government and people, I thank you for your message of fraternal greetings sent to me on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the liberation of Cuba.

I take this opportunity to extend best wishes for your success, good health and happiness.

## BARBADOS

### NO RETALIATION AGAINST JAMAICAN TRADE MEASURES

FL171500 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Barbados has ruled out the use of retaliatory action against Jamaica to resolve trading difficulties between them caused by new Jamaican economic measures. The government's position was outlined yesterday to members of the Barbados Manufacturers Association by agriculture minister, Dr Johnny Richard Cheltenham, standing in for Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Dr Cheltenham said that on the basis of a Barbados assessment of the impact of the Jamaican measures, the government will take necessary action but that "it will not however be retaliatory action.

Dr Cheltenham said government reacted to the new measures by sending a team of officials to Jamaica to obtain first hand information on the details of the new measures and on the basis of any recommendations in the team's report, the government will take the necessary action.

The minister noted that the local manufacturers' immediate response to the new Jamaican measures was to call for retaliatory action and to call on members of the association to boycott a Jamaica trade mission to Barbados.

Dr Cheltenham said that Barbados was committed to the Caribbean Communicy (Caricom) and "we must expect to have some difficulties in any integration grouping of this kind. But even as we sing the praises of Caricom," he said, "we must recognise certain inherent weaknesses in the arrangements, in particular, the arrangements which provide protection for local and regional manufacturing industries. I am speaking of the arrangement for the harmonisation of fiscal incentives and the Common External Tariff (CET).

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

### QUEEN ELIZABETH ARRIVES FOR FIRST-TIME VISIT

FL162045 Bridgetown CANA in English 1849 GMT 16 Feb 83

[By Stewart Russell]

[Excerpt] Grand Cayman, West Indies, Feb 16, CANA-REUTER -- Queen Elizabeth II today began her first visit to the Cayman Islands, one of Britain's few remaining Caribbean colonies whose 17,000 inhabitants have several times turned down the opportunity to become independent. About 5,000 people turned out to welcome the queen and the duke of Edinburgh, who flew into Grand Cayman's small international airport from Jamaica on board a British Air Force VC-10 jet. The queen spent a leisureely day around the prosperous islands, whose government boasts they are "the islands the recession passed by."

### Departs for Mexico

FL172015 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 17 Feb 83

[By Stewart Russell]

[Excerpts] Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, Feb 17, CANA-REUTER -- Queen Elizabeth II left the tranquillity of the Cayman Islands for the hustle and bustle of Acapulco, Mexico, today, concluding the Caribbean leg of her winter tour with a speech to the 15-member legislature of this tiny British colony.

The queen promised the islanders an upgrading of their airport because of the growing importance of the Caymans as a tourist resort and financial centre, strengthening of their police force, and "an unrelenting fight against the mosquito so that life on the islands will be more pleasant and healthy."

## JAMAICA

### DAILY GLEANER INTERVIEWS PRIME MINISTER SEAGA

FL151747 Kingston Sunday DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Feb 83 pp 13, 19

[Interview with Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga by interview reporter Bob Colacello at Jamaica House in February 1983]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Edward Seaga: You've seen the ads we're running on television?

Bob Colacello: "Come Back to Jamaica -- Jamaica Again?"

ES: Our policy is very much in keeping with that. The country did go through a period in which the last government, because of their own hostility to the U.S., infected the population with something that's not really natural to them. Not the whole population -- you only need a minority, a small minority, to have enough incidents to ruin a whole country's image.

It's funny that in any poll that has been taken posing any question at all in which the U.S. is part of the issue, there has been in excess of 70 percent support, going as high as 80 percent, and that does tell a story in terms of the natural disposition of the people, and the extent to which the last government tried to sway the population to be hostile. But their own hostility, their own anti-U.S. rhetoric gave their hangers-on, certain activists and aggressive followers, a cue.

BC: I've made a point of asking as many Jamaicans as I've come in contact with what they thought of the new prime minister. Every one of them said, "He's a fine man, a great prime minister, one of the best we've had." I also asked them about Mr Manley and they said, "He was making this country communist" -- Every single one of them actually used that phrase -- "and we were left starving." There seems to be a strong feeling that he actually was turning the country communist.

ES: I think that came through very strongly in the campaign and in the results of the campaign. He, of course, would deny that. If you wanted very hard evidence it would be difficult to pinpoint it. But all the circumstantial evidence points very much at a strong, intimate friendship with Castro.

The institutions that were being erected were replicas of the same institutions in Cuba -- the establishment of community councils, of what they call their home guard, and what the Cubans call people's militia. One is the spy network, and the other is a sort of paramilitary organization, which carries out the effectiveness of the directions of the political directorate.

BC: The party.

ES: That's right. In Cuba, to detect "offences against the revolution," they have a community council -- CDR's -- Committee for the Defense of the Revolution. When an offense is detected, then you have to impose a sanction. Since the offense is not a criminal or civil offense, but it is a political offense, then you have to have a political apparatus, after you detect the offense, to impose punishment. That's what the people's militia is.

So here we had the same things being set up, and when we spotted them we knew exactly the direction in which we were heading, with talk of a one-party government. Some say if you look like a duck and you walk like a duck, then you're a duck.

Dramatic Turn-around

BC: You recently made a speech to Parliament summarizing your first two years. Could you briefly recapitulate that?

ES: The first year was a dramatic turn-around in the economy. All the indicators which had been moving in the wrong direction prior to that were reversed and moved in the right direction. In the first year we reversed eight years of negative growth so that we produced growth for the first time in nine years. We reversed a balance of payment deficits, which had been running every year since 1975, to a positive surplus in 1981. New investment, which dried up almost totally -- we were able to get one hundred new investments started in the first year of operation of a new corporation which I set up for the purpose of attracting investments.

So investments started to flow in a very dramatic way. Unemployment, which had escalated by 50 per cent during the Manley regime, we actually brought down to one percentage point in the first year. Inflation, which had an average annual rate of 23 per cent over the Manley regime, we brought down from 28 per cent in 1980 to about 7 per cent. Year two is very much like year one, except to the extent that there is growth; it will not be as strong as year one because the impact of the recession is now making itself felt. When we speak of positive results we have to set it against the world background today. Jamaica is one of the three countries in this hemisphere that has shown improvement this year.

Remarkable Growth

BC: Which are the other two?

ES: I'm told Colombia and Peru. Any growth at all in the world today is really remarkable. In our case it has to be remembered that we are coming out of eight years of the worst possible depression. We've never had that kind of depression in the past. Coming out of it into a situation which is turned around is quite an achievement at a time when the world is taking a turn the other way.

BC: When you say you're seeking investment, where do you see the future economy of a country like Jamaica, because, really, more cars or more steel is not what the world needs. And tourism has its limits, I would think.

ES: Tourism's limits are well beyond our present level. We have plenty of room for expansion. It's been growing at a rate of 20 per cent per annum which is another factor.

Restrictions on Foreign Investments

BC: Do you think it's healthy for a society to become too dependent on tourism?

ES: Tourism is just one of many legs on which this economy stands. The mining sector is one of the most powerful legs. We're the third largest exporter of aluminum bauxite in the world. We used to be number one, but in the Manley years we fell to number three. Manufacturing is a strong leg here. It's light manufacturing to a large extent, although we make some categories of steel and cement. Agriculture, I think, has the strongest potential for the future. Although it is a strong leg, it has plenty of potential for development. We are in the process of putting together that kind of packaging as a major project to expand agriculture.

Far-Reaching Proposals

BC: Do you find in dealing with this administration, that there's an openness toward this hemisphere that hasn't existed previously?

ES: I don't think there's a doubt that this administration has shown more interest in the Caribbean Basin area than any previous administration, because no one has come forward with the kind of far-reaching proposals that have been put forward under President Reagan. In the past, the Caribbean area has been considered a resort not likely to have any problems with such beautiful beaches. But his administration has heeded our call especially in light of what happened in the seventies, when there was a very definite swing in the direction of the Cuban model. The present system, which people have elected on all the island, in all recent elections, is going to need economic support to show the people who supported the system that the benefits of it are better than the benefits of the Cuban model.

El Salvador and Nicaragua

BC: Do you think the Reagan administration's handling of the situation in El Salvador and Nicaragua has been good?

ES: It would be difficult for me to give you an answer. It's a very broad question. In Salvador, we ourselves are of the view that a choice had to be made between all the competing elements. I don't believe that the problems of this hemisphere are such that you can walk away from them or leave it to somebody else to do. The three competing elements in Salvador are the far right, the far left and the middle, and we obviously decided that the one in the middle would be the best group for us to back. It's not perfect in terms of our own policies or values, but it was simply the best. And we gave it that support.

BC: Do you think the real problem in Central America is Cuban and Nicaraguan support of these various rebel groups, or do you think they would exist anyway without the support?

ES: Central America is going through a phase in which it is trying to find itself politically. It is moving out of a phase of autocratic leadership and is not quite sure what the new system ought to be. In El Salvador, you have an example of a country that had had, I think, just one or two elections in the past, and is moving to the electoral process. The results that came out are those that you will find in a country that still has a strong feeling for autocratic rule, but at the same time it's very definite move in that (democratic) direction.

Other countries in the region are looking at this model, in terms of whether they should follow suit. Some are taking tentative steps, some are not. In the case of Nicaragua, they are going the other way. Nicaragua went the Cuban route, and it's a question whether they'll be able to consolidate and make gains over the years. So you have all kinds of systems in Central America: the Cuban model; the military dictatorship model; the Costa Rican model which is as democratic as anything you'll find anywhere in the world, and you have those who are moving from one system to another.

BC: Are you, overall, optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the world?

ES: I think there is going to come a time of showdown if the recession drags out too long. I don't believe it will be possible for many countries to hang on to the developments they have already achieved and are consolidating and the expectations of the people to take that consolidated development to the next stage.

Nor do I believe it will be possible for those who have not shown the kind of improvements of which I talk, but who are desperately trying to cope with problems, to weather in a period of four to five years the additional problems that are coming as a result of high interest rates, and lack of growth in international trade.

The industrial countries can weather this period with a full shakeout of inflation, and so on, but it is not the same for developing countries. They don't have that sort of cushion to lie back on. To that extent, I believe that there are going to be problems, perhaps in a year or two, which will really create shock waves through the industrial world unless something is done to try to bring the recession to an earlier end, or to not make it as severe as it is, even if it is stretched out by starting world trade again on a modest basis that will not lead to re-inflation.

BC: How do you do that?

Short-Term Funds

ES: I made a suggestion at the World Bank conference: Inflation and the present measures to control it have resulted in a high accumulation of short term funds in the banking system. These funds are not available for long term lending, but they are available for trade credits which are short term credits. And to the extent that the mechanism is used to get these trade credits into the hands of countries that can expand their own exports, then you will be starting up a thrust in trade that will be based, in part, on the developing countries that have the capacity to produce their exports being able to do so, and the developed countries that will benefit from the exports of raw materials and capital goods being part of this movement to improve world trade. It's non-inflationary because it's on an export basis. This, I thought would be a modest way of infusing investment to the rather stagnant levels of trade, and help to defray some of the impact that we are feeling in an international trade situation which is operating at the same level as of a year ago.

The Western Media

BC: The Western media seem to be fighting so strongly against new regulations that are being proposed by UNESCO. What is Jamaica's stand on that?

ES: The issue is a feeling that exists in the Third World that the media are dominated by happenings in the industrial world and, at the same time, the Third World point of view is not being put over; it's onesided. When the matter went to UNESCO, it went through various phases and consultants were brought in to structure the reactions of various delegations as to how the matter should be dealt with. What they're coming out with is a mixture of all views in which the Western press and the Western world will obviously take issue with some elements in which there is an attempt to define freedom of the press in terms of -- I use the term loosely -- "responsibility of the press", without anyone being able to define exactly what these responsibilities are, precisely. On the other hand, the media that come from the other side of the spectrum, the leftist side, are very strong voices for ownership and control, of how the media express the views of international opinion.

BC: Strong control by the government.

ES: Yes, government involvement. We welcome any attempts to improve the content of coverage and the expansion of coverage of Third World points of view and events. But, at the same time, we do not go along with the concept of defining the role of the press in a manner that will inhibit its operation, and, in fact, frustrate real freedom of the press.

PAPER CITES CUBAN INFLUENCE ON SURINAME EVENTS

FL161546 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 83 p 6

[Editorial entitled: "The Castroization of Suriname" by Wayne Failey]

[Text] Suriname has undergone a dangerous political transformation as the mass murder of opposition spokesmen in December demonstrates this brutal metamorphosis coincides with the leftward slide of the military government in Paramaribo. Many diplomatic observers, however, believe the transformation is not coincidental, but is a direct consequence of Cuban efforts to establish a new pro-Soviet satellite in the Western Hemisphere.

Suriname had experienced numerous political troubles, of course, since achieving independence from the Netherlands. These were the inevitable results of economic underdevelopment and dependence on foreign aid, of the social rivalries, among the countries diverse ethnic groups, and of the power struggle among the multitude of political parties. But even after civilian rule fell to a military junta on February 25, 1980, Suriname had muddled along with some semblance of democratic ideals and due process of law.

But that sense of legitimacy began fading last year, as the government of Lt. Col. Daysi Bouterse exhibited a growing interest in Castroite models. In the autumn the Paramaribo junta began strengthening ties not merely with Cuba and Russia, but also with the Marxist governments of Grenada and Nicaragua. Paramaribo was also filled with rumours of overtures made to Colonel Qadhdhafi's brand of anti-West and pro-Soviet revolution in Libya.

Cuba responded with delight. The communist rulers in Havana initiated a series of cultural and sport exchanges with Suriname. Some top ranking Cuban military men reportedly called on Suriname's leadership in 1982, and according to diplomats stationed in Paramaribo, the visitors may have been pressing for a military agreement, probably similar to those signed by the Marxist-oriented governments in Grenada and Nicaragua. Those agreements provided for Cuban training programmes for military and security personnel, and generally set the stage for Cuban, and therefore Soviet influence in those countries.

And so in August, 1982 the Russians sent a fulltime ambassador to Paramaribo, followed one month later with Oswaldo Cardenas, head of the Caribbean-Central American section of the Cuban Communist Party, as Cuba's ambassador to Suriname. It is worthy of note that Cardenas, in his capacity as head of the Central American section of the CPC oversaw such subversive activities as arming and training Salvadoran guerrillas, and other advisory chores as instructing Nicaraguan and Grenadian authorities on ways of neutralizing politcial opponents.

So it came as no surprise when, in early December the Bouterse regime began its process of neutralizing its political opponents -- some of them permanently. At least 15 and perhaps as many as 35 critics of the Suriname Government were gunned down in Paramaribo. The victims included such figures as the president of the Suriname Bar Association, the dean of economics at the local university, a physicist Dr. Sugrim Unransingh, and Cyril Dral, head of the national trade union federation -- all, according to the regime, "members of the rich economic elite," killed "attempting to escape from prison." Radio Netherlands claimed, however, that the bullet wounds on the 15 idenfied bodies were too accurately placed to have been inflicted while the men were allegedly running away.

So far, the claim that these men were plotting a coup has not been substantiated with any concrete evidence; although radio Suriname did broadcast tape recordings made by two of the slain journalists, allegedly confessing their involvement in subversive activities.

We all know how these "confessions" are extracted by totalitarian governments. So reports out of Paramaribo about the mutilated state of several of the slain men should not be surprising.

Lt. Col. [Daysi] Bouterse's regime followed up these executions by suspending civil rights, temporarily cutting phone lines, closing the airport, imposing a 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew, closing down independent newspapers and radio, and in effect closing down the country from the outside world. Diplomatic observers claim that the Surinamese Army firebombed two radio stations, one newspaper building and the trade union headquarters in the capital.

International reactions came swiftly. Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO Labour Federation in the United States condemned "the wanton slaughter of workers" in Suriname (nothing from our local trade unions as a body so far). The Netherlands which has already provided over $90 million in economic aid, as part of a $1.25 billion aid programme, suspended all further economic aid in protest over the killings. The United States Government has similarly placed its "entire relationship with the Government of Suriname under review."

Bouterse's rather petulant response that he would go "anywhere" to find development is indicative of the possibility that Cuban and Soviet advisors would rush to replace Western influence in Suriname (although the Soviet bloc is not known for its generousity in dispensing economic aid).

Even the casual observer of recent developments in Suriname, can see that the Cuban influence was the catalyst for, not merely the consequence of, Bouterse's brutal crackdown. Suriname's former Foreign Minister Andre Haakmat, insists that Cuban advisors, abetted by Nicaraguan helpers, "are playing a prompters' role" in his country. During a mid-December press conference in The Hague, Haakmat saw a connection between Suriname's current crisis and the Cuban Embassy in Paramaribo, with its "extensive staff in which a number of Surinamese are also a part." Haakmat added that the Cuban diplomats treat Suriname's now influential Revolutionary People's Party as "one of the family." Sounds familiar?

## BRIEFS

1982 CENSUS FIGURES -- Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 12, CANA -- Jamaica recorded a population of just under 2.1 million people when a census was taken here on June 8 last year, according to a preliminary report just published by the statistical department here. The actual count, the statisticians said, was 2,095,878 of whom 3,478 were visitors. The census day count put the island's population at 13.38 per cent higher than the 1970 population figure of 1,848,500, but according to reports, the figure was 140,000 lower than present as births, deaths and net migration. Persons over the age of 18 at this count comprised 50.8 per cent of the population compared with 48.4 persons during the 1970 census. The sex ratio shifted slightly in 1982 to 95.9 males to over 100 females, from 95 males to 100 females in 1970. [Bridgetown CANA in English 1843 GMT 12 Feb 83 FL]

REACTION TO VENEZUELAN NONALIGNED BID WITHDRAWAL

FL161721 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 16, CANA -- Guyana has reacted cooly to Venezuela's announcement that it has dropped its bid for membership of the Non-aligned Movement due to strong opposition from Georgetown.

A government spokesman here said Guyana was studying the press report of Monday's announcement by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told CANA that Guyana, "as a member of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement, would await formal notification of the contents of the letter which the Government of the Republic of Venezuela is reported to have sent to the chairman of the movement before making any further comment."

PPP CALLS FOR OPPOSITION TO 'ONEROUS' TAXES

FL170235 Bridgetown CANA in English 2354 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 16, CANA -- Guyana's official opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) called today on all working people here to oppose the new "onerous" taxes imposed yesterday in the 1983 budget presented in parliament by vice-president for economic planning and finance, Desmond Hoyte. Yesterday's 1.3 billion dollar (one Guy dollar : 33 cents U.S.) budget imposed 48 million dollars in new taxes on airline tickets, beer and other alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, and soft drinks among other items. Projected total revenue for 1983 is 600 million dollars.

"The PNC (People's National Congress) regime has made a murderous assault on the poor worker who cannot cope with the high cost of living and other difficulties facing him," PPP General Secretary Dr Cheddi Jagan told CANA. "The budget eases the rich and squeezes the poor. The reduction of the 70 per cent tax bond to 50 per cent is a concession to the PNC high salaried political and bureaucratic elite," the leader of the Marxist opposition party said.

Dr Jagan said the 48-million-dollar package of taxation, linked with previous impositions, is "criminal."

"This imposition will further depress the workers standard of living which declined by 25 percent in the January 1981 to June 1982 period," he said.

The budget also lowered the maximum personal income tax deduction from 70 percent to 50 percent.

Dr Jagan said the PNC regime, which he accused of making the rich richer by this and other measures, "must be opposed and deposed."

The National Assembly will start debate on the budget on Friday.

## COLOMBIA

### BETANCUR TO ATTEND NONALIGNED MEETING IN INDIA

PA180248 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Bogota -- President Betancur has announced that he will go to New Delhi to attend the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, to which Colombia has been admitted as a full member. The meeting will begin on 5 March in the capital of India, which will assume the movement's chairmanship.

Unofficially, sources said the chief of state will leave the night of 3 March and will arrive in New Delhi on 4 March. He will spend 2 days there and will return via Paris, Madrid and New York, where he will meet with French, Spanish and U.S. officials respectively.

## SURINAME

### ECONOMIST CONDEMNS WITHDRAWAL OF NETHERLANDS AID

FL180040 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] In Suriname, the head of the Planning Bureau in Suriname, economist (Winston Caldera), has condemned Holland for its withdrawal of aid from that country and denounced the Dutch move as illegal.

(Caldera) admits that the withdrawal of Dutch aid would create economic problems in Suriname but has expressed confidence that the government will be able to make up its shortfall. The economist says his confidence is based on Suriname's excellent credit rating, pointing out that his country was one of the few in the developing world which does not have a massive international debt.

With regard to the withdrawal of American aid, (Caldera) said this would have no substantial effect on the Surinamese economy.